Issue No 150 Available from Wednesday, August 11, 2010



RESIDENTS' ANGER AT TOWING THREAT

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FESTIVAL: Lounge on the Farm 2010. Search 'Lounge'

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SHE'S BEST OF THE BUNCH

A grandmother from Sittingbourne has been branded the next JK Rowling after being named best UK children's story writer.

Karen Tolhurst landed a £1,000 cash prize and an all expenses paid trip to London to receive her winner's certificate from superstar mum Jamelia, after emerging victorious in the Munch Bunch storytelling competition.

Karen's winning entry, Munch Bunch goes on holiday, is to be published all over the UK for young families and will also soon be available on the official Munch Bunch website.

For more details on the awards or to enter the 2011 project, see www.munchbunch.co.uk.

EXCLUSIVE

BY JILL HURST

NETWORK Rail slammed the working practices of its own contractor after it threatened to towaway cars belonging to householders in Faversham.

Townspeople in Hilton Close received letters from railway contractor Trakside Systems Ltd on August 2 informing them a crane would be travelling through roads to a sub-station on the estate.

The letter, from Trakside Systems Ltd read: "On Friday, August 13, a crane will be performing lifting operations. The access route for the crane will go through Hilton Close. As the crane requires a minimum clearance of three metres any cars left which may cause an obstruction may be subject to removal."

However, homeowners – already fed up with

However, homeowners – already fed up with the nightly din of the overnight trains — were left infuriated at the "heavy handed approach."

One resident, who did not want to be named, said: "They seem to think they can do anything they want and our views don't count. They haven't even offered anywhere else for us to park so it's just more inconvenience. What happens if someone was on holiday for two weeks? It's a bit heavy handed and won't win them any friends."

Carol Rodgers lives a few doors away from the sub-station. She said the letter would only add to the bad feeling already felt towards Network Rail: "Our lives are already a misery

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INSIDE your lifestyle



SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS KENT ON SUNDAY AND THE SATURDAY **EDITION FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND**

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DELAYS: Work on The Sheppey Academy was supposed to have started last year

Academy gets cash for new development

"GET your act together and ensure no further delays" was the directive issued by MP Gordon Henderson after he confirmed the Government released £56 million to rebuild The Sheppey Academy.

The future of the school has been plagued with doubts after the Secretary of State, Michael Gove, put the brakes on the Building Schools for the Future programme, freezing cash earmarked to rebuild every school in the country.

However Conservative Mr Henderson, who has been lobbying for the cash, received a written guarantee from the Department of Education, and the Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP said those involved must now get on and deliver.

He said: "This is wonderful news for children on the Isle of Sheppey. I have been in almost daily contact with Michael Gove and am delighted he listened to my pleas and ended the uncertainty over the academy. Parents, children and teachers can now plan for the future with confidence. "Of course, we shouldn't forget that

the building work was delayed even before the Government's review. Construction work should have started earlier this year and if that had happened there would have been no question about the capital funding.

"I am still not entirely sure why building work was delayed for a year, but I very much hope that all the interested parties will now get their act together and ensure there are no further delays.

"I have expended a lot of time and effort lobbying Michael Gove to release funds for our academy and it would be unforgivable if there were any more delays in getting the building work started."

The £56 million Sheppey Academy was set up as part of Kent County Council's reorganisation of education on the island last year, which saw the introduction of a twotier system.

"There was considerable opposition to the change but opponents were placated with the academy project.

It opened in September 2009 using ramshackle buildings that previously belonged to Minster College and Cheyne Middle School – two miles apart. However since its launch not a single brick has been laid.

Last year, the heating trunking in Minster college collapsed and fell between two rows of desks, injuring a number of children and narrowly avoiding more serious consequences

With almost 2,500 pupils the academy is the only secondary school on the island and is one of the largest in the country.

To find out more see www.theisleof sheppeyacademy.org.uk, email east office@theisleofsheppeyacademy.org. uk, or call 01795 873591.

Network Rail to take up letter with contractor

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

because of the noise of the high speed trains parked behind us.

"That goes on all night, depriving us of a proper night's sleep. Swale council should step in and help us but they do nothing. I rent and I like it here but I'm not sure how much longer I'll be able to last."

Just as matters were set to boil over bosses from Network Rail stepped in

and called an emergency meeting on Friday, August 6.

A spokesman for the company said: "Our contractor sent out a letter advising residents that we needed to replace some equipment at a substation. A crane and other equipment

was required.
"The letter requested that vehicles were not parked in a way which prevented access to the site, and stated cars would be towed away if they were.

"On this occasion, the letter was not cleared with Network Rail and did not reflect the standards of working practice we expect from contractors.
This is not how we work. We will be taking this up with our contractor.
"We are currently in discussions

with residents to try and find an amicable solution so this important work can be carried out."

Trakside Systems Ltd declined to

Blazes swiftly dealt with around town

FIRE fighters were kept busy around the district at the weekend.

A car was set alight after being dumped in a field in Peel Drive in Sittingbourne in the early hours of Saturday, August 7. Fire fighters took just under 30 minutes to tackle the blaze at 1.25am. Police have

launched an investigation.

Later on the same day a motorbike was abandoned in trees and set on fire at Attlee way in Sittingbourne at 8.47pm.

The blaze was quickly dealt with and the crew left just over ten minutes later at 8.59pm.

The following day fire fighters were called to a house in Cherry Gardens, Teynham, at 9.26pm after a cooker caught fire. The blaze was quickly extinguished and there were no causalities.

the same Sittingbourne fire fighters were called to Swale Way to reports that a stolen car had been torched in a field at 10.39pm causing nearby grass to catch fire.

The fire was put out by 11.06pm.

Rare Maid of Kent rediscovered

A RARE beetle once thought to be extinct in the UK has been sighted at

the RSPB Elmley nature reserve on The Isle of Sheppey.

A recent survey of the site uncovered two of the Maid of Kent beetles under fresh cow pats.

Gordon Allison, warden at Elmley, said: "The site is a prime example of coastal grazing marsh. The presence of the Maid of Kent beetle shows the benefits of good land management and how important it is for the protection of rare species.

"As well as being a great rarity in UK terms, it's a pretty smart looking insect. Most people would imagine beetles to be dull looking things, but the Maid of Kent is like a cross between a bumble bee and a beetle. It can land in fresh cow pats, burrow through them and emerge clean as a whistle on the other side.'

An RSPB spokesman added: "The beetle is a top predator of the dung community, preying on adult and larval beetles and flies. The livestock grazing operation at RSPB Elmley provides a healthy supply of dung for the species."

The technique to uncover the beetles involved spreading the fluid manure with a trowel, resulting in the beetles popping out.

The beetle was given endangered

status in 1987 because it had not been reliably recorded anywhere in Britain since 1966, and not in north Kent since the 1950s.

See www.rspb.org.uk/elmleymarshes or call Sophi McCallum on 01273 763603 for more details.

Community farm plan as stables branch out

BY JILL HURST

PLANS for a huge animal park at Whents Farm in Teynham were announced this week.

The 80-acre community farm will be home to a host of species such as alpacas, snakes, lizards, albino hedgehogs, rats, birds, rabbits, ponies, pigs, sheep and goats.

It will also provide schoolchildren with the chance to work towards a qualification in animal care after it was given permission to run BTEC courses

Brenda Tyler bought Whiteleaf Stables in Lower Road two years ago and after making a success of the business she bought the adjoining Whents farm land with her son Michael to launch a community farm.

The stables and the farm will be rebranded under the joint umbrella of the Whiteleaf

Community Enterprise.

Michael said: "The stables have done really well and over 200 children visit us each week to take riding lessons and learn about animal

"We also work with vulnerable youngsters, and we have found both groups respond really well to being around animals

Michael, who is a qualified disability nurse, says the experience he has gained at the stables, combined with his profession and love of animals proved the inspiration for a community farm.

"Our aim is to bring something special to the community. It's not all about profit, but doing something that contributes to the community."



Building work is expected to be complete by the end of September, when the first lot of animals will arrive. Michael says he has already applied for a zoo licence, which he hopes to receive by the end of this year, meaning he can bring in a range of exotic animals too.

Once finished, the farm will incorporate an education centre, animal boarding facility and children's parties where youngsters can experience being around different species and even take part in alpaca walking.

Michael says Whiteleaf, already a member of the Kent Wildlife Trust, has taken on an animal welfare specialist, who will manage the day-to-day needs of the animals as well as working alongside schools in the district to develop a broader animal care curriculum.

EXCITING

Children can

already enjoy

Whiteleaf

riding lessons at

stables, but the

owners now

animal farm

plan to add an

youngsters will

be able to get

up close to a

25% OFF Colour when paying

range of species

PLANS:

The announcement of the farm plan comes as speculation about the future of Farming World in Faversham continues. The buildings and land at Nash Court in Boughton are on the market as four plots - one of which is home to the farming attraction.

To find out more about the Whiteleaf Community Enterprise, call Michael Tyler on 01795 522512 or email ttylermj@aol.com.

Call for witnesses to street robbery

DETECTIVES have released an E-fit image of a robber who struck in Sittingbourne last month.

The thug is one of two who attacked a man in Park Road between 12.20am and 12.27am on Sunday, July 4.

Investigating officer PC Steve Wells said: The victim, a 35-year-Sittingbourne



The E-fit image is of a man aged about 25. He wore a pink Nike polo shirt and white shorts and was of a stocky build and about 6ft tall with black spiky hair.

His accomplice was about 25 and was wore a white polo shirt. He was stocky, with black hair and about 5ft 8in tall.

Anyone with information should call PC Wells on 01795 419344 or Kent $\begin{array}{c} {\rm Crimestoppers~in~confidence~on~0800} \\ {\rm 555111~quoting~CY/10610/10}. \end{array}$

Cannabis farmer gets police caution

A DRUGS farmer has been cautioned after police discovered two large cannabis plants and herbal cannabis at his home in Minster, Sheppey.

The 44-year-old man was cautioned for being concerned in the production of

cannabis and possessing cannabis.

Island patrol sergeant Darren
Walshaw said: "We take the production of illegal drugs extremely seriously.

"We urge anyone with information concerning drugs on Sheppey to contact the island CID team on 01795 584111."

Camera gift after burglary

CAMERA giant Fuji has offered to present a Faversham couple with a new camera after theirs - containing irreplaceable baby photos was stolen.

The camera was taken from the couple's home on Hogbens Hill, Selling, on July 31.

Katy Teesdale, PR manager from Fujifilm, said: "We were upset to hear about this couple's misfortune, and although we can't replace their missing pictures, we're happy to offer them a new camera as some sort of compensation.'

Kent police are keen to get back the original photos and have appealed to the burglars to do the right thing and post them back.

PC Steve Hobbs, investigating the case, said: "This is a kind gesture on behalf of Fuji, but it still doesn't replace the photos which were on the original camera.

"I want to appeal to the better nature of those who carried out this burglary to hand in the memory card.

"It contains photos of the couple's holiday and footage of the first few days of their new baby's life and although they have little monetary value are irreplaceable to the vic-

If you have any information about the burglary, call PC Hobbs on 01622 604374 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Beach stunt drivers could have cars seized

DRIVERS taking part in off-road stunts on beaches in the district have been warned to stop or risk having their motors seized

The warning was issued by police as three 4x4 drivers were caught at the Leas, in Minster.

Officers from the neighbourhood policing team raced to the beach after receiving reports of the motorists' anti-social antics.

Each driver was issued with a warning and, if caught again, they risk having their vehicles seized.

Minster PC Andy Dennett said: "This sort of behaviour won't be tolerated by the police. Not only can it ruin people's quality of life, it is also dangerous for people on the beach."

A person who is warned for driving anti-socially is given an official form stating that if they are caught breaking the rules again in the next 12 months, they will have their vehicle seized.

This warning goes against the driver's name and the vehicle. This means the vehicle can also be seized if another person drives it antisocially or if the driver uses another vehicle.

If the vehicle is seized, the owner have to pay £150 in recovery costs and £20-a-day storage fees for every day it is kept at the compound. If it is not recovered, it is crushed.

PC Dennett said appealed for peo-ple to report anti-social driving of bikes or car to them on 01622 690690. To contact the neighbourhood policing team call them on

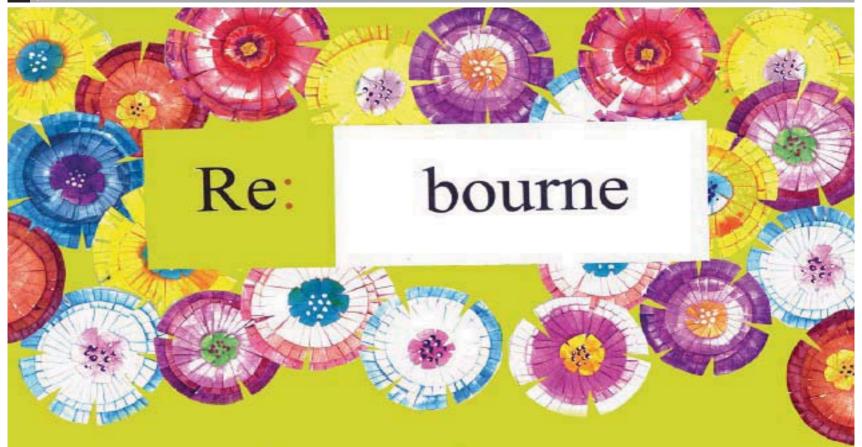
Five star toilet service is rewarded

MOTHER and son cleaning duo, Carol and Brad King, were rewarded for their efforts in achieving a five star service at public toilets in Leysdown, Sheppey.

Carol was given a bouquet by Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson, and the pair were presented with a new sign, which will be displayed outside the toilets, advertising Swale council's tourist information service.

Mr Henderson said: "I was delighted to join Councillor Ben Stokes and make the presentations to Carol and Brad. It was clear they are dedicated and conscientious and take real pride in their work. I hope the good example set by Carol and Brad will be replicated across the borough."





13th and 14th August

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FREE 2.30-5.30 pm

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www.rebourne2010.co.uk







'I won't rest until Garry is brought home'

BY MARIJKE COX

THE partner of a retired firefighter branded a football thug and thrown in a Portuguese jail has made an emotional plea to the Government to help bring him home.

Suzanne Lloyd-Baker, from Faversham, spoke to KOS Media after months of silence following the extradition of her long-term partner and father-of-six Garry Mann.

The 40-year-old, who admitted the family was finding it hard to cope with what hap-

pened, vowed to never give up hope.

"It's no use sitting here and doing nothing for Garry," she said. "We're trying to get support from the top to get him home.

Mr Mann - who was twice commended for bravery during his 31-year career in the fire service - was sent to prison in Portugal in May after a European Arrest Warrant (EAW) was issued relating to a disturbance in the Algarve resort of Albufeira in 2004.

Back then the 52-year-old had been convicted of football hooliganism in connection with a riot during the European Championships 2004.

But the Birmingham City and England fan, from Faversham, denied being involved and said he had witnesses to prove it.

However, within 48 hours he was arrested, charged and convicted of inciting a riot.

Mr Mann claimed he saw a lawyer for only five minutes before his day-long trial and did not have proper access to a translator.

He also claimed he was told that if he agreed to deportation he would not be sent to

agreed to deport attoin he would not be sent to prison, so he chose to be deported.

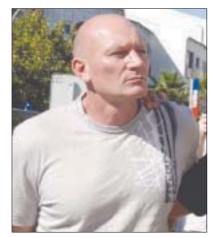
After returning to the UK, Mr Mann continued a normal life with Ms Lloyd-Baker and their six daughters – two from his previous relationship and four from hers.

But in February, Portuguese officials issued an EAW – brought in to tackle terrorism cases in 2002 – on the grounds that Mr Mann had not served his sentence in the UK.

Despite appeals and fights by Fair Trials International, he was extradited to Portugal to serve a two-year sentence in May.

Ms Lloyd-Baker said: "It's awful having to

live life with him over there. My children are finding it very hard. We are very private peo-



'LET DOWN': Former firefighter Garry Mann

ple and to come out and talk about it is very difficult.

But the 40-year-old is lobbying the Government to help release Mr Mann, who she believes was let down by the courts.

The campaign is being supported by senior appeal court judge Lord Justice Moses who called the case a "serious injustice"

Ms Lloyd-Baker said she would make every effort to get Mr Mann home with assistance from Fair Trials International.

"We've got to try and get Garry home," said Ms Lloyd-Baker. "We're trying to get politi-cians involved. Even David Blunkett who was against Garry at first has admitted the

EAW is capturing the wrong type of people." Then-Home Secretary Mr Blunkett said at the time of Mr Mann's conviction he wanted to "nail him"

Ms Lloyd-Baker said she is rallying help from politicians and hopes to get in touch with her local MP for Faversham, Hugh Robertson.

Shortly before his extradition, Mr Mann said: "I have been let down by the politicians that agreed to the UK's rigid extradition laws and the EAW, and the judges who no longer seem willing to stand up for justice.

"I am not the first victim of this system and, until it is reformed, I won't be the last."

The coalition Government is to review the EAW legislation.

Cigarette thieves caught on CCTV

KENT police have released CCTV images of two men who stole cigarettes worth

25,000 from a Faversham petrol station.

The incident, at the Macknade service station on Canterbury Road, happened just before 3.25am on Tuesday, July 27.

The two men are aged between 18 and 25. The first is described as slim, and wore a grey or blue hooded top with a red emblem on the front, khaki combat trousers and black gloves.

The second, of medium build, wore a dark hoodie with a gold Adidas symbol on the front and back, dark trousers and brown gloves. Under the hood was a light grey or blue baseball cap.
Investigating officer, Carli Davies, said:





"The pair used a black Vauxhall Astra which we believe had a Y-registration plate and they drove off along Canterbury Road, towards Brenley roundabout."

Anyone who can help with the investiga-tion should call Sittingbourne police sta-tion on 01795 419345, quoting reference number CY/11894/10.

yourswale.co.uk **NEWS** IN BRIEF

Catapult attack on bus

POLICE believe a catapult was used to cause hundreds of pounds worth of damage to a bus in Sittingbourne on Wednesday.

The bus was travelling along Murston Road when the rear windscreen was shattered. No-one was hurt in the attack, which happened just before 1pm, but damage estimated at £500 was caused to the bus.

Acting Inspector Dan Worthington, of the Sittingbourne Neighbourhood Team, said: "Throwing any kind of stone or missile at a moving vehicle could cause a serious accident."

The bus driver saw two teenagers, a girl and a boy, both aged about 14, with a catapult just before the window was shattered. The pair ran off along Shortlands Road.

Anyone who may have seen the incident should call Sittingbourne Police Station on 01795 419182 or Kent Crimestoppers in confidence on 0800 555111 quoting reference number CY/12395/10.

Play day draws crowds

SWALE'S play day attracted more than 400 people to Beachfields on the Isle of Sheppey.

The event, on Wednesday, August 4, was part of the national play day campaign, the annual celebration of children's right to play. It was organised by Swale council's Sports Development Team.

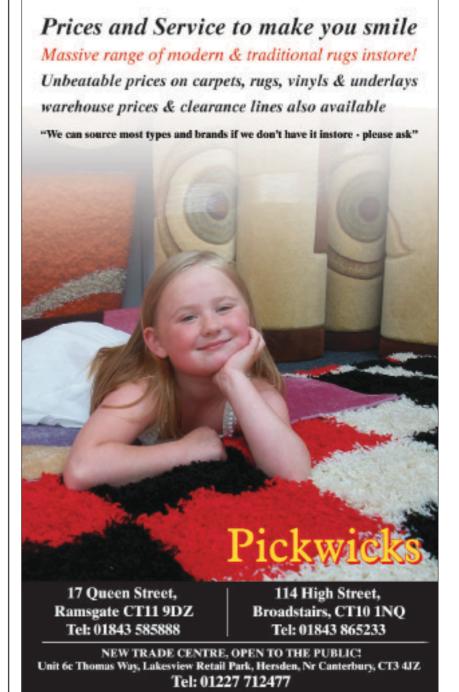
Activities included mini soccer, storytelling, messy play, clay modelling and football organised by Charlton Athletic Community Trust. Swale Community Leisure offered free swimming to under-16s and information was available at a market place.

Little monsters in town

WITH the summer holidays upon us, The Forum Shopping Centre in Sittingbourne invited children from around the county to have their faces painted.

A colourful display was on show as dinosaurs, monsters, butterflies and princesses littered the paths.

Allen Forder, centre manager, said: "Sometime it can be difficult and expensive to keep the children busy over the summer so we wanted to put on an event to entertain the whole family. The free face painting was a huge success and it was lovely to see all the children made up as various characters."





Monty Python and the Holy Grail (1975, 91 minutes) 21st August (8pm)

Join us with picnic, for a rare opportunity to see one of cinema's classic comedies on the big screen in the spectacular setting of Leeds Castle. This is Monty Python at their best - a hilarious medieval adventure upon which we encounter killer rabbits, outrageous French accents and of course the famous Knights who say "Ni!"

Tickets: £10 no concessions

Presented by Protect Kent, in aid of their campaign work to protect our beautiful Kent countryside for future generations.

How to book

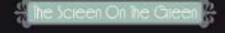
Book online at www.leeds-castle.com/events Call 01622 880008 weekdays from 1st March, 10am - 5pm. Booking fee of £2.50 applies to all orders.

Key to the Castle tickets are not valid for this event.









Vhy weight? Join the challenge



BY JILL HURST

JUST one month on the Arriba! community weight loss challenge and I've lost 11 pounds - that's three-and-a half pounds more than the average-size newborn.

Eleven pounds also represents a five per cent reduction in my body weight, which has

made my doctor very happy.
At the beginning of this challenge my blood pressure was at the top end of normal and my cholesterol level was just outside the normal

Approachable

A five per cent drop in body fat is proven to lower blood pressure and cholesterol - the bad fat in your body responsible for clogging up your heart (you could have high cholesterol even if you are not overweight).

I've also taken my doctor's advice about regular exercise and, dare I say it, I'm starting to enjoy it. So much so that when someone

Yourchallenge

Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson has taken up our challenge and pledged to get fit. Why don't you join Jill Hurst in her challenge and make a pledge to get fit?

Gordon's challenge

Mr Henderson said: "I congratulate Jill for setting us such a good example. I'm



happy to take up the challenge by committing to regular daily exercise. Ideally, I'd like to lose a stone-and-ahalf over the next six months and suspect there are many others in Swale in the same position. So, come on,

everybody. Let's follow Jill's lead, get Swale moving and make ourselves healthier at the same time."

To take part in yourchallenge email your pledge to yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk or write to yourchallenge, yourswale, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent

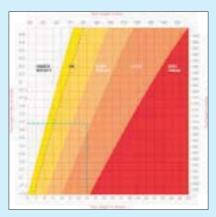
smiled at me in the gym this week, I resisted the temptation to curse at them and spontaneously smiled back.

Buoyed by my growing confidence, I booked a session with a personal trainer.

My instructor's name was Eddie. A young

chap, he's studied sports and nutrition at college and clearly knows his stuff.

Eddie was approachable and made me feel really comfortable.



Use the above chart to check if you are the right weight for your height. If you are overweight for your height, cut down on the amount you're eating, especially food and drink high in fat or sugar, and try to do more physical activity. If your weight has reached obesity level, this could increase your risk of heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure and osteoarthritis. If you fall into this group, it's important to lose weight. Always check with your doctor before embarking on any major lifestyle change.

The first thing he told me was I don't need to run to lose weight. In fact, Eddie said walking is better for weight loss and less likely to knacker my knees.

Eddie explained that while runners' bodies draw on carbohydrate supplies for energy, hillwalkers use calories (energy) directly from fat stores. All I have to do is keep my heart rate in a 'fat-burning zone.

Using the heart rate monitor on the tread-

mill, I am able to simulate hill-walking, controlling the intensity of my workout so my heart runs between 110 and 120 beats per minute – or 60 per cent of my maximum cardiac output.

The principle of fat burning is to reduce your body's overall fat content while building and maintaining lean muscle mass

By walking in the fat zone, 85 per cent of the calories I burn will be fats, five per cent protein and ten per cent carbohydrate.

Conversely, when I run my heart needs to

work much harder which places me in a 'cardiac zone'.

Fat burning still takes place in this zone, but there is more emphasis on aerobic systems which generate lactic acid and burn proteins once you have run out of blood sugar.

So instead of chopping and changing equipment I now stay on the treadmill for longer to keep my heart in the fat-burning zone.

Backside

Eddie also started me on a weight-training programme, assuring me that by using large muscle groups I won't end up looking like a Russian shot-putter.

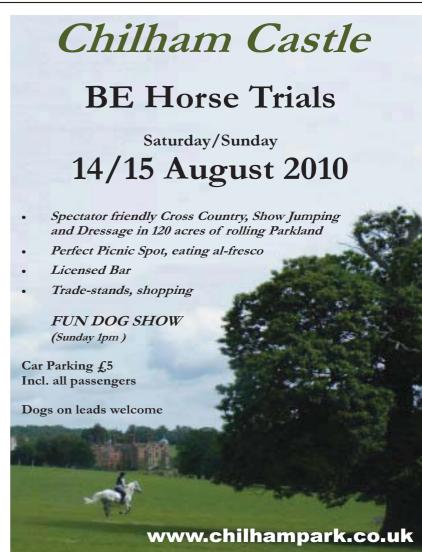
Moreover, because my muscles will seek to repair themselves I'll continue to burn calories even after my workout is finished. The upshot is, I can sit on my sofa and still lose weight.

After just one hour with Eddie I'm more knowledgeable, I feel more in control of my exercise plan, I'm burning 500 calories in 45 minutes, I've found a healthy way to relieve stress and lift my mood and I can legitimately sit on my backside and still lose weight.

Don't knock it until you've tried it.

Turn to page 8 to find out more about the Arriba! weight loss challenge, or telephone Sara on 01795 532201, or visit www.arribafaversham.co.uk





yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER



Tell us a little bit about you.

I'm a 30-year-old personal wellness coach A 1m a 30-year-out personal means and independent Herbalife distributor, working part-time around my full time job as a service technician. My Herbalife business is into its fourth year, helping people to lose weight, gain weight, maintain a healthy weight, find more energy and vitality and also sports nutrition.

What's the 12 week community weight loss challenge?

I started Faversham Arriba Wellness Club in April 2009 to run the 12-week community weight loss challenges.

The challenge is a health and nutrition course, at a cost of £39, where people can learn how to eat healthily and lose weight permanently.

The biggest loser at the end of the challenge can win up to £300 based on a percentage of their original weight.

What's different about the challenge to other weight loss groups?

Every participant has a personal one-to-one appointment with me so I can help them identify their weaknesses and put a plan together that they can commit to.

We do weekly weigh, measure and full body composition analysis. Each week we cover a different topic, such as why we need to drink water, fibre, personal protein requirements etc.

Participants can learn to make healthy choic-

es for themselves for long term results and of course for their families too. Plus we have lots of fun, weekly prizes and quizzes in a great community atmosphere while making great friends.

() Why did you start the challenges?

I decided to run the challenges to be able to help more people. In the past I concentrated primarily on helping clients using Herbalife programmes on a one-to-one basis, however, we noticed a gap in the market place as people wanted the support and expertise of a Herbalife distributor, without purchasing the programmes.

By running the challenges as a non-profit making enterprise, I can afford to help and support everyone in a group environment no matter how they choose to lose weight. All I ask is that they learn from the nutritional education, this is my way of giving back to the community.

Unlike other diet clubs, we are not a weigh and go club, we concentrate on nutritional education and recognise each little step of achievement. Participants' weight and measurements are kept private, there's no naming and shaming.

We educate to make little changes for long term results that last, so the information can be taken home to make the whole family healthier.

Who's been your biggest loser to date?

In 2009 Kevin Knight won two challenges Aback-to-back losing over 86lbs. I'm still in touch with Kevin and still weigh him at the gym to keep him on track. I'm very proud of him.

So what's the secret to success?

Making little changes each week to your Adiet, drinking more water and being more active can make all the difference to losing and maintaining a healthy weight. Learning to understand food labels can be great help too.

What's the best bit about your job?

It has to be the friends I've made and the lovely text messages of thanks I get. I'm there for them, to help them achieve their wellness or weight loss goals. They are there for me too. Even when I've been unwell they've stepped up to help each other out.

I love seeing people change each week and the surprise on their faces when they win and they didn't have a clue.

What's the future got in store?

My vision is to help 2,000 people lose weight and be healthier. I can't do this on my own so I want to show others how to do the same.

 If anyone would like to know more about joining a challenge or being an Arriba leader, call Sara on 01795 532201 or see www.arriba-classleaders.co.uk or www.arribafaversham.co.uk.

Reporter **Jill Hurst** signed up to the Faversham 12-week community weight loss challenge, her programme manager explains what it's all about and how you can get involved in this worthwhile endeavour

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Hop on board the festival express

MORE than 20,000 revellers are expected to attend Faversham's annual Hop Festival in September.

There will be plenty on offer for the whole family – from street entertainment, the finest local fare, live music and the ever-popular Spitfire steam train.

The festival recalls the days when hoppickers, travelling from London by train, took their annual holiday in the hop gardens of Kent, bringing in the harvest and ending their stay with huge parties.

The Spitfire train will retrace the hoppickers' route on Sunday, September 5, leaving London Bridge and travelling through Bexleyheath, Dartford and the Medway towns before arriving in Faversham.

Enthusiasts

The train will also make a shorter return trip from Faversham to Dover on the Sunday for enthusiasts, and will cost between £16 and £24, with concessions for children

Return train fares from London Bridge are £59 in Hoppers Class or £87.50 in Spitfire Class, also with concessions for children. The Shepherd Neame brewery in Faversham will also be open for tours throughout the weekend, allowing visitors to see the whole brewing process from hop to hand pump.

from hop to hand pump.

A hoppers' lunch is included and booking is strongly advised. Train tickets are on sale now. For more information and bookings, call 01795 542285 or book online at www.shepherdneame.co.uk.

Last year's trains were sold out, so prospective passengers are advised to book their seats early.

Award Winning Company

Traffic closes Barkaways after 165 years' trading

BY JILL HURST

DRIVEN out by traffic, a butchers shop in Ospringe closed its doors for the final time at the weekend, bringing 165 years of trading to an end.

With 15,000 vehicles using the busy A2 road each day, owner Chris Barkaway said it was just too difficult for customer to stop and shop.

The family business, which launched in 1865, will now operate solely from premises in West Street, Faversham. The Ship Inn is now the only remaining business in the village. John Baker has been its landlord for 23 years.

Speaking to yourswale, he said Ospringe Street had changed beyond recognition.

He said: "It's very sad to see the butchers close but unfortunately it's a sign of the times. The traffic and supermarkets have killed everything off. We've found it a struggle trying to compete against cheap booze and I imagine it's been the same for everyone.

"When we first arrived here there was a sweet shop, paper shop, post office, greengrocers, bakery, butchers and a pub. It was a busy and thriving little place. One by one they've all gone. "I believe the authorities won't be satisfied

"I believe the authorities won't be satisfied until Ospringe is totally residential. The Ship Inn is the last. It's a case of guns at the ready for the oncoming enemy."

01303 817071

Mr Barkaway said although he had been



FIRST CUT: Chris Barkaway, left, with staff member Stephen Illingworth outside the Ospringe shop. AJ Barkaway will operate from the West Street shop in Faversham

forced to close the shop he and his son Chris had managed to avoid redundancies by employing a little bit of lateral thinking. "It's the end of an era but the road got so busy

"It's the end of an era but the road got so busy that even our regular customers were finding it hard to stop," he said.

"We only had a small parking area and many found it difficult to get back onto the main road. So we have worked hard to diversify and keep up with times by offering a delivery service to businesses and creating ready-prepared meals.

businesses and creating ready-prepared meals. "We also keep up with what celebrity chefs are doing, recreating their menus. Not so long back we had a huge run on Spitfire sausages used by Gary Rhodes."

Mr Barkaway said his great-great-grandfather, Richard Barkaway, would not recognise the shop today.

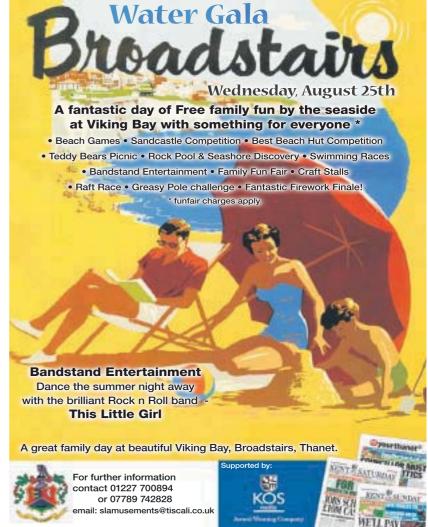
"Back then they would have whole sides of beef hanging and cut straight from the bone.

"There was no refrigeration and everything would be kept fresh on huge trays of ice. People shopped each day for their groceries and would buy their meat fresh. The shop's delivery boy would take the meat to the country houses twice a day by bicycle.

a day by bicycle.

"While we are still traditional butchers we want the business to pass on to future generations and to do this we have to move with the times."





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Contact Jake Judd

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Get on board in rail service discussions

RAIL-users are being urged to unite with politicians and pressure groups to push for improvements to Kent's train service.

It follows a meeting between transport minister Theresa Villiers and Kent County Council's cabinet member for highways Cllr Nick Chard about problems caused by the High Speed One (HS1).

Cllr Chard is now calling on passengers to help create a united front to press the Government for better services.

"The rail franchise in Kent is due for renewal in 2012, or 2014 if Southeastern is granted an extension," he said.

Work needs to start now if we are going

to shape the future of our rail services.
Since the new HS1 timetable was fully rolled out in December, services for the north and east of the county, Maidstone, and Deal, have been plagued by problems.
Some of the 'classic' slower services run-

ning between Maidstone and the City were cut and passengers from areas including Thanet and Herne Bay found they were paying more money for a reduced, poorer service on the conventional lines.

At times, some passengers returning from London to Margate found it took two hours, instead of one hour 35 minutes.

"That's slower than in 1927," said MP Roger Gale, who has campaigned for better services since HS1 was introduced.

"When the HS1 is running late, the classic service is stopped and held back – the passengers on the reduced, overcrowded classic service have to watch as the almost empty HS1 goes past.

"The service along the Kent coast is slower, £13 Theresa Villiers

more expensive for a day

"The original timetable needs to be brought back for the people who are travelling to other London stations like Cannon Street, London Bridge or Victoria," he said.

"Modern signalling needs to be brought in so trains can move on both sides of the track. The so-called fast train can't actually move at high speed along the Kent coast until it passes the Medway towns."

A rail summit was held at County Hall in March to discuss the situation and another one for later this year is being organised. Cllr Chard said: "It is so important that

rail-user groups come forward. We need a united Kent voice and I want people to make a contribution by saying what they think is needed."

To get involved or make a comment, email nick.chard@kent.gov.uk.

Police dogs 'bite' 50

KENT Police dogs have bitten almost 50 people in the past 15 months, according to new figures.

Of that number, four victims were innocent members of the public caught up in police chases and, in one case, a missing person search. Four police officers were also bitten, But the majority of those bitten were sus-

pected criminals and in almost half the cases were being pursued by police.

Crimes included burglaries, stolen vehicles, suspected arson, fights and in one incident threats to an officer.

From January 2009 to June 2010, 49 people were bitten by police dogs, causing injuries such as puncture marks, grazes and scratches.

In some incidents the dog gripped a person's clothing – which has to be reported as a bite – or there was no injury sustained.

In the four cases of members of the public being bitten, one reported a puncture wound BY **MARIJKE COX**

to the ankle, two reported reddening arms and

one claimed to have been bitten on the arm.

The 41 suspects – one of whom was a violent prisoner and another wanted in connection with violent assault – complained of either puncture wounds, bruising or bite marks. Since 2005, six claims have been made

against the police regarding dog bites - three are now dormant, one was discontinued, another is ongoing and in one case the claimant received £63 for a ripped jacket.

Assistant Chief Constable Andy Adams said all Kent Police dogs are trained to the national standard.

"Handlers also undergo continuous refresher training throughout the year," he said.

"Police dogs are trained to protect themselves and their handlers from violent attack, and also to chase and detain fleeing suspects.

"They help to arrest more than 1,000 suspects every year."

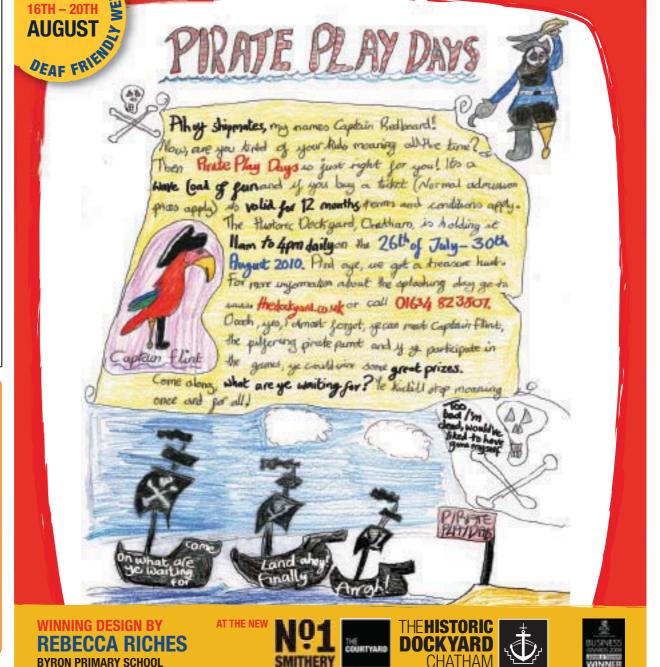
He said people who are violent towards the dog or the handler, or act in a threatening way may get bitten "as a result of their own actions".

"Our force has one of the leading dog teams in the country and has won national awards at a number of police events." TRAINED: Police dogs



In all cases except one the breed involved in the reported bites was German shepherd. The one exception involved a mallinois, a variety of the Belgian shepherd dog

The Kent Police Dog Unit performs patrol duties, public order duties, explosives searching, weapon detection, cash detection and fire



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BREAK TIME

Always a pleasure to reward success



WINNERS: Fulston Manor School awards

PUPILS at Fulston Manor School in Sittingbourne received a huge pat on the back as head teacher Alan Brookes handed out more than 100 awards.

The end-of-term ceremony saw 110 youngsters recognised for academic achievement or personal success.

Presentations were also made to students who had contributed to the community and "symbolised the importance of personal development".

The award for outstanding attendance was won by Daniel Elliott, who hasn't missed a session during his three years at the school

Mr Brookes said: "It's always a pleasure to celebrate the success of our students. These awards reflect the priorities of the school and provide a launch pad for further success"

Sats picture 'mixed'

READING levels among primary school pupils have fallen for the second year running, national Sats results have shown.

But according to figures published by the Department for Education, results also indicated 11-year-olds are getting better overall at English and maths.

School-specific results and league tables will be released in October.

Borden's entrepreneurs commended by dragons

BY JILL HURST

BUDDING entrepreneurs from Borden Grammar School in Sittingbourne showcased their talent in a Dragon's Den-style enterprise competition.

Eleven schools from across the county took part in the event, organised by the East Kent Education Business Partnership,

The Borden Grammar School company, Rewind, presented their idea for a portable video camera which clips to clothing. The product is aimed at holiday makers staying at leisure resorts who want to rent equipment to record highlights of their trip.

A spokesman for the school said:

A spokesman for the school said:
"Judges commended the team in
the category of most enterprising
idea and the team were also commended for their table-top business display which included cupcakes featuring their company
logo, promotional posters and a
folder of business information on
their product.

"The competition was the culmination of several months of prepa-



ENTERPRISING: The Borden team was commended in two catagories by judges from the East Kent Education Business Partnership

ration, which began with a business masterclass day back in January for all year 10 students and which was followed by several months of lesson time for teams to develop their business plans, with class and school contests held in the spring.

At the in-school final, won by

At the in-school final, won by the Rewind team, the school teams had a chance to show their ideas to Kent councillor Sarah Hohler, who was visiting the school that day. "The Rewind team was pleased to be commended in two categories and had a very good day".

Teacher Tom Carter, who supervised the Borden team, praised the boys involved. He said: "The standard at the competition was very high and our students acquitted themselves really well. I am looking forward to supporting another team next year."

Borden Grammar School was founded as an independent day and boarding school in 1878. The original building is now the Adult Education Centre off College Road.

The school is now a voluntary controlled grammar school for day boys.

The school's motto "nitere porro" means "to strive forward".

For more information contact Mrs Laurel Townend, Deputy Headteacher, at Borden Grammar School on 01795 424192 or by email to lvt@bordengrammar.kent.sch.uk

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Births, deaths and lending bool

A BIG shake-up in public services could see people registering births and deaths with librarians.

A six-month pilot project is under way at Ashford and Sevenoaks libraries where registration services have been relocated.

Library staff are being trained to register births and deaths, with registrars being trained to become librarians.

The changes are part of a scheme looking at

how the services can be delivered together.

It comes after Kent County Council revealed it has to make £15 million in savings this year as a result of coalition Government cuts.

Although concerns have been raised by Unison, KCC said the trial would help look at BY **MARIJKE COX**

the best way to deliver registrations.

"It will give us an opportunity to test how the services can work together to provide customers with better access at a more convenient and familiar location," an official said.

"We also want to explore how we can make the most of our premises and staffing resources across the county."

Initial plans saw an over-the-counter service, where people wanting to register a birth or death would have to do so surrounded by library users. Unison argued this would be insensitive for people registering deaths.

David Lloyd, the Kent branch's general sec-

retary, said: "Some people raised concerns about the way in which registrations were to be carried out. They were worried about the practice, where if you were registering a death it would be done over the counter.

"We think we have won on this point and it has been agreed there will be private rooms available for registrations."

Mr Lloyd said although there have been no formal objections to the changes, the merging of services is a concern to the union

"We've not been made aware of any job losses, but this is something we will keep an eye on. Staff have not objected to changes, but there are worries about what is happening.

"We really need to see how it's all going to work before we bring these up."

Staff involved in the trial have been fully trained, with librarians in birth and death registration and registrars in relevant library duties, including premises management and staff rotas. A spokeswoman said: "The results of the pilot are being assessed and evaluated before any decisions are taken that might impact on staff in the longer term.

"Any changes to the terms and conditions and jobs descriptions of staff will be subject to full consultation with the unions and staff."

She added: "The Kent Registration Service has been offering birth and death registration at a number of locations for some time, including Gateways and hospitals."

A survey is being carried out to gather feedback from the public.

My 'Massive' debt to Kent

RESPECTED rap producer Lewis Parker says he will never forget his Kentish background, despite leaving the country in his quest for fame and fortune.

Years before moving to New York to work with some of the biggest names on the American hip-hop scene, a then teenage Parker developed his own style

while living in a house opposite Canterbury's St Lawrence cricket ground. And despite now living thousands of miles away, the 33year-old insists he is still a member of the 'Westgate Massive' that took its name from the historic

towers in the city.

"When I lived in Kent the majority of people I knew were into hip-hop," he said. "I really embraced that and that's where my style was formed. Most of my friends were DJs, record collectors or MCs, and when my first record came out it was all about representing the Westgate Massive and giving them shout-outs. Nobody was representing Kent and Canterbury as hard as I was, and I felt the love back too."

Parker, who attended Chaucer producer Lewis Parker Technology College during his

three years in Canterbury, received his big break in 1998 when he released his first LP Masquerades and Silhouettes – through Massive Attack's own record label Melankolic. But after five years, the Londonborn talent moved to Queens, New York. Parker's career took off and enabled him to work with such stars as Ghostface Killah from the Wu-Tang Clan. "I don't give a damn where I'm living," he said. "I could go the middle of the Amazon and still produce the same dope rhymes I do now. I didn't want to repre-

sent just one area. I wanted recognition on a worldwide scale, and that's why I moved to New York to reach that next level.

"I've always been the underdog and the guy who has an album but no music videos. I've always played the back role and I'm still in that same battle. People in the industry know me and respect me but I'm still fighting to get that recognition."

Last month saw the release of Brooklyn-based MC River Nelson's debut album – the Rise and Fall of River Nelson - which was produced by Parker and released through the World of Dusty Vinyl Records.

Parker said: "I was planning to release the album a couple of years ago but it was delayed when I got stuck in the UK. By the time I returned I'd fallen out

with my business partner and the album just got stuck in the pipeline. River and I decided to put it out digitally and we're still trying to get some physical stuff done, but we're both very happy with it."



DOPE RHYMES: Hip-hop

Cloned beef 'no problem' for NFU

THE National Farmers' Union in Kent said it has no problems with cloned beef entering the UK's food chain.

It comes after the Food Standards Agency discovered meat from a bull, born using an embryo from an American cloned cow, was sold for human consumption in Scotland. Experts are divided on the rights and

wrongs of the meat being eaten by humans.

The RSPCA wants cloning banned, but an NFU Kent spokesman said: "We understand there is no health risk posed by eating meat from cloned animals. The UK has a worldclass cattle identification and tracing system $\,$ which is monitored by Government authorities including the FSA.

"The 'passport' each animal has also contains genetic details. No cloning can take place in the UK. But in the case of a progeny from a cloned animal, the passport would identify the host dam, which is the mother."

Darren Griffin, professor of genetics at the school of bioscience at the University of Kent, said: "No-one has ever found evidence that cloned meat is in any way dangerous to eat. You should never say never, but I can't see a way that it might be, and there are all sorts of things we should worry about before this. The issue is that people should be able to know what they are going to put in to their mouths. I think the two issues are getting mixed up here.'

Compassion in World Farming said cloning was cruel because "many animals suffer in the pursuit of higher yields because they are stretched to the limits of their physical capacity'

But Prof Griffin said: "To say this is cruel because it physically affects the animal is stretching too far. The embryos are implanted and the animals are born in the normal way and, presumably, treated no differently."

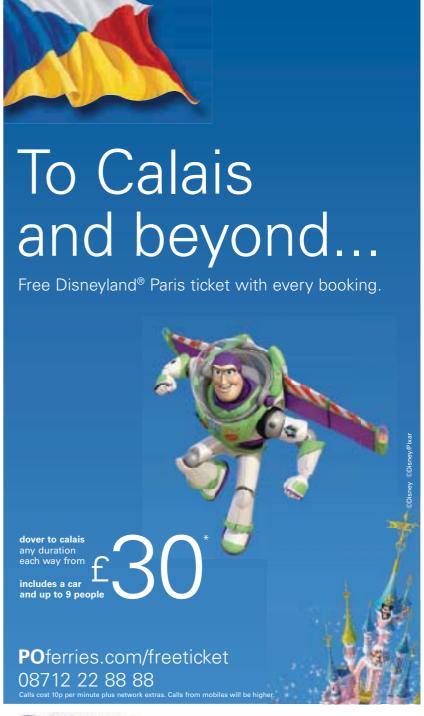
The meat entered the food chain after two bulls from the embryos of a cow cloned in the USA were bought by farmer Steven Innes at Newmeadow Farm, near Nairn.

Meat from one was sold on to be eaten after the animal was slaughtered in July, last year.

The second bull was slaughtered in July, this year, but was not allowed into the food

The FSA also said meat from another offspring of a cloned cow had entered the food chain.

The animal, called Parable, was born in May, 2007, and slaughtered on May 5, 2010.







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YOUR LETTERS

No EU support for bloody spectacle

I was delighted to hear that the parliament of Catalonia has voted to ban bull-fighting, despite its place in Spain's cultural tradition.

For a long time I have been concerned by this barbaric practice and last week was an important step towards the total ban I would like to see. Bull-fighting is a continuation of a cruel age from the past, in which the suffering of animals was a spectacle for public entertainment. These practices continue to reinforce the idea that animals are nothing more than objects we may use at our whim and they have no place in today's Europe. Since being elected I have received numerous letters objecting to bullfighting. I am determined to make sure no money from the EU is ever used to fund this bloody tradition. I look forward to the day when this ban is extended across the whole of Spain.

Catherine Bearder, Lib Dem MEP for South East England

Livestock lifeline in the disaster zone

Animal welfare charities must be included on the board of the Disasters Emergency Committee.

This is not some dewy-eyed bunny-hugging plea: it is a hardnosed life-saving reality that has been proved over and over again that if you do not save livestock at the same time that you save human life then in the longer term more people will continue to die.

There is an impression that "we must save women and children first" and, of course, every effort has to be made to rescue people who are stranded, in danger and without water and food.

But unless a simultaneous effort is made to save donkeys, goats and other livestock then in the long-run, once the floods have receded and the media spotlight has moved on, people left without any means to sustain themselves will starve to death. There is, I would suggest, small point in saving life today only to perpetuate the system that means that some of those lives will be lost tomorrow.

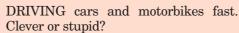
In Darfur this situation has occurred not once but twice. In Kenya SPANA unilaterally worked to save thousands of animals. In Haiti the livestock has been decimated. And in Pakistan we are seeing that in some areas a donkey is more use in assisting the rescue effort than mechanised transport.

The DEC does good work but it is an exclusive club that has resisted the inclusion of animal welfare representation for too long and I believe the time has come for Government to intervene and, in the interests of life-saving humanity, insist that animal rescue is afforded the representation and priority that its importance warrants.

Roger Gale MP, trustee of SPANA Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad

yourblogger

Ian MacMillan explains why the petrol-head's need for speed is neither big nor clever



Having driven a car safely for more than 50 years, I watched with mounting anger a TV documentary about recently qualified young boy and girl racers.

Statistics show that the arrogant, selfish and ignorant anti-heroes featured are a danger to themselves and others on the road and yet, until confronted by the possible consequences of their antisocial behaviour, they were quite happy – and indeed proud – to race on the road, exceed the speed limit and so on.

They seem to get a thrill out of speed, and the pride

They seem to get a thrill out of speed, and the pride comes from the irrational feeling that it is them rather than the car's engine that causes the speed.

As though putting the car in a certain gear and stamping on the accelerator is macho and clever.

Wouldn't it be nice if this antisocial, dangerous and,

Wouldn't it be nice if this antisocial, dangerous and, indeed, childish behaviour was deprecated by all. But, alas, that is not the case.

Certain young boy racers make a lucrative living by driving cars recklessly and dangerously fast. Jenson Button and Lewis Hamilton to name just two.

Money is one thing, but fame is another, and in petrol-head circles, this is best achieved by almost killing yourself.

A middle-aged racer from Kent shot to fame after a spectacular crash in the Indianapolis race and Top Gear's Richard Hammond brought out an autobiography on the back of doing something extremely silly.

There are people who should know better who claim to see no connection between what the likes of Button and Hamilton are admired for doing and what the maligned boy racers do on the public highway.

As though, for instance, it would be perfectly acceptable for the NHS to campaign against smoking on the grounds that it is injurious to health while at the same time allowing smoking companies to sponsor a smoking contest.

Having watched the Tour de France and the European athletics championships, where the contestants hone their bodies to as near perfection as they can, it amazes me that getting into a car or on a motorbike and 'racing' is considered a sport.

Back in 1979 a motorbike racer wrecked my grassroots career as a runner (a mere 19th-ranked in the Commonwealth over the marathon in 1969).

As age was about to do gradually what the bikerider did suddenly, maybe I should be grateful.

But this is not some sort of personal vendetta against the petrol-heads. It's just that admiring them features quite highly in the list of things I find incomprehensible.

So, safety on the roads and banning so-called motor sport? Or the alternative?

Both is not an option.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Gareth Arnold**, on **01303 817025** or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Swale blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to **www.yourswale.co.uk**.



Protect Kent is delighted to learn that secretary of state Eric Pickles has rejected the appeal from AXA for the Kent International Gateway (KIG) freight depot at Bearsted.

Common sense has prevailed. The secretary of state agreed with the inspector's summary recommending rejection of the application, with a number of factors weighing against the proposal.

These factors include the loss of open countryside, harm to the setting of the Kent Downs AONB and damage to bridleways and footpaths. Protect Kent gave evidence at the public inquiry last year and believe any future use for this site will have similar impacts. We particularly want to highlight the ridiculous claim that KIG would have reduced carbon emissions. AXA also failed to deal with the strong evidence submitted on security and the effects of Operation Stack. This is a major victory and I would like to pay tribute to the hard work over many months and vears by Protect Kent members and staff, StopKIG and residents. The strength of opposition was evidenced by the extraordinarily high turnout at the 12-week inquiry. It is rare to see a community uniting so strongly and effectively. Beautiful countryside has been saved from steel and concrete. Generations to come will be able to walk along the Pilgrims' Way and enjoy the breathtaking scenery from the North Downs. Protect Kent is hosting a screening of Monty Python at the Holy Grail at Leeds Castle, on August 21., which is an opportunity for everyone to celebrate. Once we have analysed the inspector's full report and the secretary of state's decision letter, we will give our views in greater detail.

Richard Knox-Johnston, chairman of Protect Kent

Social model of care best for new mums

The new report suggesting a greater role for GPs in maternity care comes at a time when maternity services are under close scrutiny and though it makes some useful suggestions, the preferred model of care would be to continue to provide a choice of carer and to active ly promote midwife-led care to women. The current problems in maternity care are caused not by the principle of less GP involvement but rather by the lack of supportive systems to make the role of the lead carer, midwife or consultant obstetrician easier and seamless. A partnership needs to emerge between the health professionals involved in the care of pregnant women, when they are well and when they are unwell.

Birth is a normal, physiological process and the majority of women who are healthy, with a straightforward pregnancy, do not require medical involvement either at GP or hospital consultant level.

A social model of care is therefore preferable which is why midwifeled care should be offered to all women. Some women will benefit from the involvement of a GP or require specialist help from dieticians, substance abuse services or social services and some will want to maintain their relationship with their GP. However, many women find getting to know a midwife they can trust and who will be with them thought their pregnancy and birth is vital.

Pregnant women in England currently have a choice to receive their care from their GP or a midwife. The midwife will explain this choice to them when they book their first visit. GP knowledge on maternity issues has fallen behind current evidence and a considerable amount of retraining will be required to enable them to fulfill their role in pregnancy in relation to the health of the woman and baby with medical needs.

Even more training would be required if GPs are expected to deal with the pregnancy and birth and the postpartum period, as a midwife would. In the current cost-conscious climate, the most effective solution would be for a pregnant woman to book in with a midwife, for the midwife to have her medical records on her first visit, and the midwife then informing the GP of the pregnancy of one of their patients. Where there are pre-existing medical problems, the woman

should be referred by the midwife to the appropriate service, which may be the GP or may be other services.

Belinda Phipps, chief executive, NCT

Vocational route to satisfying careers

School leavers in Swale may face disappointment this summer as the full force of recent university cuts come into effect.

With fewer university places available and more graduates than ever joining them in an overcrowded jobs market, AAT - the UK's leading professional body for accounting and finance staff - is urging young people to consider vocational alternatives. Many school leavers and their parents assume a degree is the only route to a professional career and this just isn't the case. Vocational qualifications offer an excellent alternative. Recent research showed almost 60 per cent of young people aged 16 to 24 in the South East ignored alternatives to university, such as vocational training and professional qualifications. However, 43 per cent of those who went to, or were at university, were not confident about their choice. A vocational qualification makes economic sense, too. With the average student debt at £28,000, the savings for choosing this route instead of university could be high.

Jane Scott Paul, chief executive, AAT

Little improvements needed on policing

Ken Little would change policing for the better. His improvements could stop state sector heads taking advantage. Police PR self-aggrandisement and paying police authority members to pontificate offers no cost benefits to the public.

All the wretchedly unsuitable members of committees, associations, chairmen, cabinet members etc have delusions of grandeur. They profit from the status quo and reinforce our stratified society to gain status, expenses, salaries and pensions.

Police forces have changed for the worse, so has politics. Civic pride and duty has been replaced with a rigid, narcissistic mob mentality and excessive force used with impunity under overpaid bosses, used to having it all their own way.

The myth of correlation between pay and performance has been disproved with the collapse of the economy. Stopping jobs for life and empire building in the mismanaged state sector could make equality possible. Government tweaking of discriminatory, unjust, budget-grabbing systems has not worked. Stopping state sector big cheeses living off our backs might.

Smug state and elected appointees are not representative, imposing punishing taxation without representation. Genuine leadership is missing while misdirected meddling is rife.

Rita Grootendorst, by email

Churchill's finest items to go online

BY JENNA PUDELEK

A VAST collection of Sir Winston Churchill material, from school reports to a personal copy of his 'finest hour' speech, will soon be available online.

The Churchill Archive Trust has agreed a deal with publisher Bloomsbury to make more than one million items about the wartime Prime Minister, who lived at Chartwell, near Westerham, available online in 2012.

Among the archives being digitised are some 2,500 boxes of letters, telegrams, manuscripts and photographs.

It will show not only his greatest moments as PM, including drafts of his famous speeches such as the rousing "we will fight them on the beaches" and "never in the field of human conflict" from 1940, but also his human side with material that shows his love of gambling and drinking.

There are also items relating to Churchill's menagerie of pets including the black geese, sheep and pigs he kept at Chartwell.

Dentures

Meanwhile, a set of Churchill's false teeth, credited with giving the skilled orator his characteristically slurred diction, went under the hammer in Norfolk for £15,200.

Auctioneer Keys said the partial set of dentures were a spare set of what the Royal College of Surgeons once captioned "The teeth that saved the world?"

The teeth, which were estimated to reach between £4,000-5,000, went to an unnamed collector from Gloucestershire, who also owns the microphone through which Churchill announced the end of the war.

Antiques valuer Andrew Bullock said Churchill suffered from terrible teeth and gums and needed complicated dentistry from childhood.

"The delicacy and special design of the teeth have been widely credited with helping Churchill speak clearly and effectively," he said.

"Churchill lived in fear of losing his false teeth - and hence his speaking voice - and insisted spare dentures always be on hand."

The dentures, which were sold last



DIGITALISED: Artefacts from Winston Churchill's collection will be made available in an online archive

Thursday, were carefully designed to ensure that he kept his slurred speaking voice, which was a deliberate affectation designed to overcome a childhood lisp.

Other items of 'Churchilliana' also went under the hammer at Keys including a damaged Victorian Boulle cigar box he gave his valet, sold for £4,500, and two packs of playing cards made for Churchill that fetched £1,000.

Churchill showered gifts on Norman McGowan, who served as his valet from 1949-54, and Mr McGowan's family entered 11 lots in the auction.

"It's not the sort of thing you give away lightly," Mr Bullock said about the cigar box.

The base is split – which makes it no good as a cigar box because the air can get in. So

"I have got a delightful vision of Churchill picking the box up and banging it on the desk causing the box to split, then deciding to give it to his valet."

When the Churchill archives go live on the web in 2012, schools, homes and libraries around the world will have access to an amazing amount of items.

Site agreed for 100ft horse

A KENT sculptor has been offered land near

Dover for his own Angel of the South. Ian Morrison, from Wingham, has been given use of the former Ministry of Defence land, near Dover, for his 100ft Invicta horse sculpture

The land, which was also previously owned by Channel Tunnel operator Eurotunnel, is now in the hands of a private group, which has told the sculptor he can locate the Kentish symbol there.

The position of the land, just of the A20 near Folkestone, means the horse would be seen from across the Channel in both Calais and Boulogne.

Mr Morrison said: "It still needs planning permission, but this should be possible as there are no houses or anything anywhere near there. Kent County Council and Dover

District Council support the idea. "I designed it out of anger against the Ebbsfleet horse – that is all wrong. I've had a huge response to the design and hopefully it will be ready before the London Olympics.

The artist is hoping that the project will be partially funded by Kentish people who will be willing to pay to have their name engraved into the statue.

"Kentish people will be able to have their name put on it," said Mr Morrison.



SCULPTURE: Ian Morrison with scaled-down versions of the proposed 100ft Invicta horse he plans to build

"It will be personalised for Kent with the names on the mane, tail and wherever eles and stand as a record of these people for a small fee. It will stay there as long as people want it because it will be made from galvanised steel plates.

"These have a lifespan of 55 years in the worst conditions and can be replaced if they start to corrode.

Reward for urban foxhunters' capture

KENT'S leading fox experts are offering a £1,000 reward to nail a bunch of cruel thugs that beat a helpless fox to death with a crick-

The gang call themselves the Urban Foxhunters, but expert John Bryant said they are breaking sev-

The group has defended its actions following outrage when a video of them beating the fox to death appeared on YouTube (pictured). It has since been removed.

The Urban Foxhunters said they were providing a "public service" by drugging foxes in Hackney neighbourhoods, and then avoiding any suffering by hammering them to death with a cricket bat while they are doped up.

The slaughter happened close to the home of twin baby girls seriously injured by a fox in June.

One of the gang members, who calls himself Lone Horseman, wrote: "We will not be intim-

idated by the crazies. We are performing a public service. I have kids and I don't want them being bitten by diseased vermin scum."

Now Mr Bryant, from Tonbridge, has waded in the controversy and offered a cash reward for the successful prosecution of the gang

He said: "This gang are putting out drugged food for foxes. This is also a threat to cats and dogs. They then chased this fox around, beat it to death with a cricket bat and put the video online.

"The police and RSPCA are looking at this, and I thought I would offer this £500 reward, which is being matched by the Fox Project, also based in Kent.

"They have masks on, but one is identifiable. want to expose these masked idiots. Of course this animal suffered because it was being chased around."



2 August and 30 October 2010. Variable charges for hold baggage apply and some payment methods attract a handling fee. See website for details.

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LIVE & LOCAL

Pirates welcome aboard

SEADOGS are invited to take part in a pirate-themed evening to mark the start of Dover Regatta.

Shanty singers will perform at Table Table in Marine Court, Dover, from 8pm on Friday, and people are invited to wear their eye patches and tricorn hats.

For details call 01304 218260 or email dover.marinecourt@whitbread.com.

Audition for stage role

OPEN auditions are being held for roles in two productions by the Folkestone-Hythe Operatic and Dramatic Society.

Auditions for James Goldman's Lion in Winter will be held at the Tower Theatre in Folkestone on Sunday and auditions for this year's pantomime, Babes in the Wood, take place on Sunday, September 5. For details call 07711 710952 or email info@towertheatrefolkestone.co.uk.

Musical to raise funds

GET A Slice of Saturday Night when the Granville Theatre in Ramsgate hosts a fund-raising performance.

The hit musical will be performed from Thursday to Saturday and again from next Thursday to next Saturday. Tickets cost £10 in advance or £12 on the door. To book call 01843 591750.

Stars at jazz festival

WANTSUM Jazz Festival takes place at Ramsgate's Royal Harbour this weekend.

EastEnders star Scott Maslen will be there to support his wife, Estelle Rubio, when she performs onboard the Proud Seahorse on Saturday. Hamish Stuart and film composer John Altman will also be appearing. Christine Tobin and the WestCoast Soul Orchestra perform on Sunday. For details check Facebook or call 01843 850630.

Live music at pub

ENJOY an afternoon of free live music when harmonica player Brendan Power performs in Canterbury on Sunday.

He will be joined by multi-instrumen-

talist Tim Edey and percussionist Lucy Randall at The Dolphin in St Radigunds Street from 4.30pm to 6.30pm. For details visit www.musicforchange.org.

Kent's history on tour

DISCOVER Kent's history on King's English Magical History Tours.

The company in Canterbury is offering eight tours, exploring themes such as Jane Austen's England, the garden at Sissinghurst and the World of Charles Dickens. Tours cost £35 each. For more information call 01227 840444 or visit www.kingsenglishretail.co.uk/tours.

Kent is star of comedy

THE Kent landscape stars in The Calling, the latest film by Thanet-based company Medb Films.

Starring Brenda Blethyn, Emily Beecham, Amanda Donohoe and the late Corin Redgrave, the comedy drama was shot at Salmestone Grange in Margate and in other parts of Thanet. The DVD is available from Mondayand can be preordered at www.amazon.co.uk.



Join sailing set

RAMSGATE WEEK

Monday, August 16, to Sunday, August 22 Various venues, Ramsgate.



SPECTATORS can look forward to thrilling action on the high seas when Ramsgate Week gets under way.

Renowned for being one of the friendliest regattas in the country, Ramsgate Week attracts entrants from all over the country and even further afield. Sailors from Belgium, France and Holland will be making the trip across the Channel to take part in the fun next

Despite the stiff competition and fierce rivalries encountered out on the water, the event is well-known for its warm and welcoming atmosphere, and competitors find plenty of time to relax together after the races

Hosted by the Royal Temple Yacht Club, the regatta offers events for serious racers in the IRC class and also gives the chance for competitive fun in the Cruiser class.

In collaboration with Broadstairs Sailing Club, the new dinghy sailing weekend will take place from Broadstairs on the Saturday and Sunday.

The action can be seen from the safety of dry land, so spectators do not need to leave the shore to enjoy the entertainment. From the Eastern pier head, it is possible to see the boats in the Cruiser class jostle for position at the RTYC start line. A warning signal starts the race sequence and Ramsgate's Mayor, Cllr David Green, will fire the first cannon at

10.25am on Monday.

Competitors in the IRC classes will start their races offshore and people on the shore can see them head out to the start line before the races get under way at 10am. Spectators should also look out for the colourful spinnakers that can be seen 'flying' out in front of

"As well as being a truly international event, Ramsgate Week is a family-friendly regatta," said Commodore Mike Brand.

"The harbour becomes a hive of activity and yachtsmen benefit from the excellent sailing conditions off Ramsgate. We are looking forward to welcoming all participants to the event and providing the spectators with something great to watch.

The racing programme includes the IRC classes 1 to 3 series of coastal races, with one taking place each day from Monday to

Wednesday. The race taking place on Wednesday is the famous Round the Goodwin Sands Noot Cup.

IRC International Regatta Series features three races on Thursday, two on Friday and two on Sunday. Running from Friday to Saturday, the SailEAST four-race series is also part of the IRC International Regatta Series and is a highly competitive event.

International teams will compete in the new Commodores Cup for Half Tonners and seven races make up the X-35 class, which takes place over Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

There will be three cruiser classes between Monday and Saturday – class five is an unre-stricted cruiser class with spinnakers, class six is for fast cruisers without spinnakers and class seven features slow cruisers without spinnakers.

The Dinghy Regatta features six races taking place from Broadstairs across the Saturday and Sunday.

Evening entertainment can be enjoyed at the Royal Temple Yacht Club, and there will be a children's area in the Hold Bar.

For more information, download the brochure from the website at www.ramsgateweek.com or www.rtvc.com.



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Jenny Eclair, pictured.



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Friday, August 13, Strode Park, Herne Bay

CHAPTERHOUSE presents an enchanting version of popular fairytale, Beauty and the Beast.

Laura Turner's interpretation of the much-loved story adds extra magic to the tale, in this family production. The show visits Strode Park as part of a summer tour of outdoor venues, and the open-air setting will add atmosphere to the evening. Set in the 1940s, the play

opens with Louisa and her friends transforming her garden into a magical backdrop for the romantic story.

When a beautiful young girl is forced to live in a spooky old cas-



tle, she is at first afraid of her scary host. But eventually friendship blossoms and she begins to see past the monstrous exterior to the man inside.

Audience members who go along in fancy dress can join Louisa and her friends in a fairytale parade during the interval.

The performance starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £11 for adults, £7 for students and children and £32 for families of four. To book call Strode Park on 01227 373292, See Tickets on 0871 220 0260 or visit www.seetickets.com.



GULBENKIAN'S NEW SEASON Various dates, Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury FROM top names in comedy to a dramatic icon, there is plenty to enjoy at the Gulbenkian. Belly laughs will abound when Canterbury welcomes Ardal O'Hanlon, Rich Hall, Micky Flanagan, Julian Clary, Chris Addison, Tommy Tiernan, Brendon Burns, Greg Davies, Mitch Benn and his Distractions, comic ventriloquist Paul Zerdin and Step back in time with the Railway Swing Band, see the stars of the future with the Marlowe Young Musician of the Year 2010 and take a musical trip around the world with the Maridadi Singers and

The Hamsters interpret Jimi Hendrix's music and Georgie Fame will be showing why he has enjoyed such a long show business career. Show of Hands will be performing with Miranda Sykes and cellist Robert Cohen also makes an appearance.

Quality drama continues with The Caretaker, A Doll's House, Kupenga Kwa Hamlet and La

Bohème, also actor, writer and director Steven Berkoff will talk about his career.

There are also lots of children's shows and variety

performances to enjoy.

For full listings visit www.thegulbenkian.co.uk



UK BODY PAINTING FESTIVAL

Saturday, August 14, and Sunday, August 15 Bridge House, Mersham



SEE how the body can become a natural canvas at this year's UK Body Painting Festival. Examples of remarkable artistry can be seen in life size

as models showcase the extraordinary work of body painters. Children can take part in face painting and adults can find out more about the craft of body painting.

On Friday afternoon, Fantasy UK will be holding a three-hour body painting class to show how it is done.
On both days, children's face painting will be on offer

from 10.30am to 11.30am, adult face painting runs from 10.30am to noon and adult body painting sessions run from 11am to 4pm. There will be presentations in all three categories in the afternoons.

Admission costs £3 for adults, £1.50 for children and £6 for families of two adults and up to two children.

Tickets can be bought in advance on the website and there is also an online gallery where visitors can see previous examples of artists' work.

Details of the programme are also available. For more information visit the we website at www.ukbpf.com.



THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Thursday, August 12, Former Stagecoach bus depot, Dover

LEND your voice to art and help to create the soundtrack for Marjorie Van Halteren's new short film.

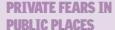
The radio producer and sound artist is appealing for residents of Dover town and district to take part in her latest project. On Thursday she will be directing a live sound performance for her 3.5-minute film, which will be shown on Dover's Big Screen later this year.

Her film includes archive photos of the spot where the Big Screen is located today and includes election hustings. It was here that in the past, election candidates would stand in front of the public and watch votes being counted in real time.

Using a wide assortment of materials from baking trays to coconut shells, Van Halteren wants local people to create the soundtrack for the film, The Voice of the People. The event takes place from 3-7pm and peo-

ple can join in at any time.

The Voice of the People is part of the contemporary visual arts project, From A to B, which runs in Dover town centre from September 10 to October 16.





Thursday, August 12, to Saturday, August 14 Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs

THE stories of six people seeking love and affection are played out in Private Fears in Public Places

Alan Ayckbourn's play - widely considered to be his masterpiece – is the latest production in the Sarah Thorne Summer Repertory Season. Four stories throw lives together as the six main characters search for warmth in an uncaring city.

Dan and Nicola are flat-hunting, but Nicola begins to feel she has no future with Dan and he places an advert with a dating

agency.

Estate agent Charlotte surprises her colleague Stewart by giving him a video of a

faith film, with an unexpected addition. Stewart and his sister Imogen keep secrets from each other as he enjoys the tape's hidden extra and Imogen goes out on a blind date. Meanwhile, Charlotte takes extra work as a carer for Arthur and meets his downtrodden son, Ambrose.

Tickets cost £10.50 for Sarah Thorne Theatre Club members and £12.50 for non-members who must book at least 24 hours in advance. To book call 0845 262 6263 or email info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk.





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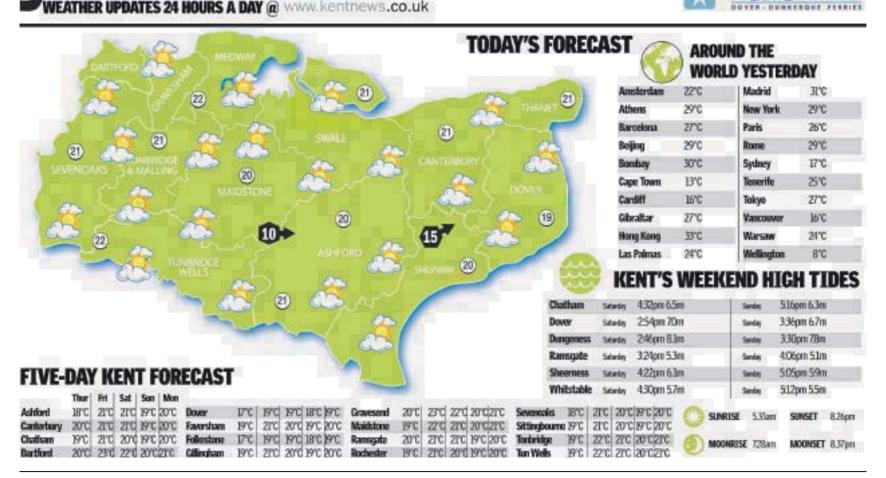
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ourcompetition

WIN! Levi Roots' new Caribbean cook book

LEVI Roots, the man who famously slayed the dragons and whipped the nation into a Caribbean frenzy with his spicy Reggae Reggae Sauce, is back with another cookbook to tickle the taste buds Food For Friends.

From lip-smacking barbeque recipes to family dishes, Levi's new cook book is packed with more than 100 mouth-watering recipes and showing how to spice up traditional favourites

Good old Shepherds Pie becomes Caribbean Spiced Shepherd's Pie, pork chops are transformed into Pork Chops Calypso, a simple fish supper becomes Smoked FishChoka and a classic dessert is remodelled into Mango, Banana and Passion Fruit Trifle.

meet the man himself at the Waterstones store at Bluewater, on the August 4. But if you didn't make it down there, fear not, Levi Roots signed ten copies of his book, courtesy of Bluewater, Europe's leading retail and leisure destination.

Simply answer the question below for your chance to win this extra special, signed copy of Levi Roots 'Food For Friends', worth £18.99, by Mitchell Beazley:

Q) What is the title of Levi Roots new spicy cookbook recently launched atWaterstones, Bluewater?

a) The Reggae Reggae Cookbook b) Food For Friends

c) Caribbean Food Made Easy To enter, simply answer the question above and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, Courtesy of



www.bluewater.co.uk

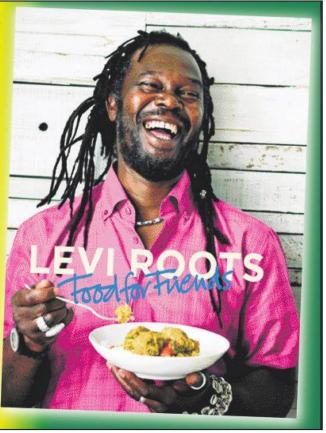
address, and daytime telephone number to Levi Roots Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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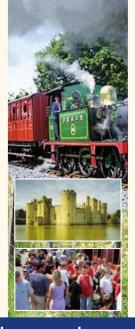
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Action, pace and laughs fail to help stars shine in characterless caper

BY **DAMON SMITH**

TOM Cruise and Cameron Diaz have starred in some of the most financially successful and critically acclaimed films of the past 25 years, collecting numerous awards for their efforts.

Yet put these two Hollywood superstars in the same camera shot and the results are lacklustre to say the least.

Their first collaboration, Vanilla Sky, an English language remake of the clever Spanish thriller Abre Los Ojos (Open Your Eyes), was confusing, illogical and uninvolving, and lacked the style and intelligence of Alejandro Amenabar's original film.

Experience

Now these two talented actors reunite for James Mangold's fast-paced action comedy that has lots of crash and bang, but almost no emotional wallop.

There is a seed of a good idea in Patrick O'Neill's screenplay but the actor turned writer doesn't yet have the experience to knit together the comedy and action elements into a fluid and coherent narrative.

Screen chemistry between the leads never catches fire, even when entire buildings are exploding around them.

June Havens (Diaz) is an unassuming Midwestern gal, who is in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Boarding a flight bound for Boston, June is unexpectedly caught in the crossfire of a midair shoot-out between paranoid government agent Roy Miller (Cruise) and gun-toting

"I shot the first pilot, he shot the second... it's just one of those things," smirks Roy nervous-

June wakes the next morning, in her bed, believing that her high altitude adventure was



LEARNING CURVE: June Havens (Diaz) has to learn the tricks of the spy trade fast if she is to stay alive after getting caught up with government agent Roy Miller (Cruise)

nothing more than a bad dream, only for Miller to abduct her from a diner in front of would-be suitor, Rodney (Marc Blucas).

The young woman is now marked for death, and must quickly learn the tricks of the spy trade to stay alive and avoid an early grave at the hands of Antonio (Jordi Molla) and his henchmen

Meanwhile, CIA Agent Fitzgerald (Peter Sarsgaard) attempts to persuade June that Roy is a rogue spy who must be stopped before he hands a newly-discovered perpetual energy source to US enemies.

Knight And Day gallops across the globe, from Boston to Salzburg and finally to Seville for a spectacular finale during a bull run.

Cruise limbers up for the physical demands of Mission: Impossible IV, scheduled for release next summer, with a series of bruising stunt sequences and Diaz gets battered too behind the wheel of a car in the centrepiece

However, it's hard to muster concern for Roy and June when the screenplay pays such scant attention to character development.

Myriad villains are cardboard cut-outs. The twist is heavily signposted and the stars seem to be bulletproof when it matters, emerging from the melee virtually unscathed when lesser mortals would be riddled with bullets and bound for the mortuary slab.







A LIFE ON SHOW: Rafe Spall as Pete, whose every move is subject to scrutiny



YOUR TV REVIEW PETE VERSUS LIFE: Channel 4, 10pm, Friday

ASIDE from the now infamous vuvuzela, the constant din of recent months has been football pundits the world over dissecting and commentating on every dive, kick and pass during the World Cup.

If you imagine the very same comment and analysis on the mundanity of your day-to-day existence, then you've got the premise of Channel 4's new comedy series Pete Versus Life.

At the centre of the narrative is Pete Griffiths, a struggling young sports journalist who lacks the necessary social antenna to steer him smoothly through life, resulting in him getting into all sorts of embarrassing scrapes and situations.

Unbeknown to Pete, there are two sports commentators analysing his every move and choice, as if it's an exciting sports event, complete with sports graphics and opinions from

BY SUSAN GRIFFIN

guest stars, including sex expert Tracey Cox and relationship guru Claire Rayner.

Pete is played by Rafe Spall, the 27-year-old and son of veteran actor Timothy.

He says: "It's a really interesting premise, it hasn't been done before

and he's great character. "Pete's a sort of idiot but also quite bright at the same time and he's got a good heart, but he gets himself into terrible situations by lying most of

Making Pete likeable has proved

the toughest challenge.
"Even though Pete does these terrible things and he's amoral and a liar, you've still got to like him," says Rafe. You have to want him to do well, to

get the job, to get the girl and that

was a tricky conundrum to solve."

He hopes he's achieved that by having Pete remain oblivious to his own gauche nature.

"I think that's the only way you can get through it," he says. "An inspiration to me and the writers is Curb Your Enthusiasm. You hate Larry David but you love him as well. Everything that Larry does, even when he gets himself into terrible sit-uations, he's doing it to help other people and later on in the series Pete's doing that. He has the best of intentions, even if he gets undone.

The first episode saw Pete impress a girl when he lied about his commitment to green issues, before wrecking the first meeting with her parents through inappropriate remarks, and giving her mother a rape alarm as a



Monty Python and the Holy Grail (1975, 91 minutes) 21st August (8pm)

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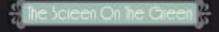
Book online at www.leeds-castle.com/events
Call 01622 880008 weekdays from 1st March, 10am - 5pm.
Booking fee of £2.50 applies to all orders.

Key to the Castle tickets are not valid for this event.









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Festival becomes stuff of folklore



FESTIVAL FEVER: Pama International are on the line-up for Broadstairs Folk Week

BY SIMON ROBINSON

FOLK fans should head to Broadstairs for the final few days of the annual music festival.

Hundreds of acts have played at venues in the seaside town since the seven-day festival opened last week and plenty more will do so before the curtain brought down by Ade nondson and his Bad Edmondson Bad Shepherds this Friday night.

Other big names in the folk and country scene due to play in Broadstairs include Doug Hudson, Pama International and Drohne (all performing tonight) Three Sheets to the Wind, Jeff Warner and Martin Simpson (tomorrow) and Moondance, Derek Gifford and Monroe's Revenge (all playing on Friday). Some of the attractions will

require tickets, but many are free, as the town's venues come alive with a host of activities, from workshops to a craft fair.

There is a campsite a few minutes' walk from the town centre, but the more casual enthusiast can turn up any time of day for a wander around the charming

streets to take in the atmosphere.
A Folk Week spokesman said:
"During Folk Week, life in

Broadstairs really is set to music. In the parks, pubs, gardens and on the beaches and promenade there really is a festival vibe in the town.

"Everyone has a different Folk Week - ask 50 people what is their favourite part of the festival and they will each tell you something completely different.

"Whether you are a family looking for child-friendly events, the younger generation wanting to burn off some dance energy or singers and musicians seeking out a session, Folk Week has something for you."

LTNE-UP

Today Doug Hudson

The Shee

Steve Turner Tomorrow

BouGaRaBou Trevor Stephenson Martin Simpson Boka Halat

Chris Sherburn and Denny Bartley

Moondance Ade Edmondson and The Bad Shepherds **Bob Hall** Derek Gifford

Monroe's Revenge

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BAND PRACTICE: Zinta Egle and her band play Love With No Love

- Craig Sheridan Times Change, Deal Craig Sheridan - Winter Sunn, Bexley
- The Flack Forget Me, Deal

Ron Bowdery - This is Kelpie, New Eltham Poppy Wilson - Carbon Copy, Maidstone



INDIAN SUMMER: The magnificent Mehrangarh Fort towers over the city in the deserts of Rajasthan, known as the Land of the Kings



Opulence meets deprivation in the deserts of Rajasthan

BY LIAM CREEDON

The Thar Desert, carpeting the emptiness of India's North West, is a vast, desolate, sand-blasted expanse, dominating Rajasthan -the Land of the Kings.

Here are some of India's most aweinspiring natural and man-made spectacles, and travellers can explore this wilderness in a style befitting the Maharajas.

Built by the region's leading family, the Rathores, 600 years ago, the fort boasts opulent pleasure palaces, secluded courtyards and spiked, elephant-proof gates, providing the Maharajas with protection and a limitless view over their dust-blown kingdom - Marwar, the land of

And it is from the stomach-churning height of the fort that visitors experience a cultural revelation. The toy town far below appears to be blue.

Hundreds of rectangular, flatroofed buildings have been daubed various shades of this colour, which denotes the home of a Brahmin the highest caste.

In the city streets, life explodes in the crammed alleyways of the old town. Sacred cows nibble rubbish in doorways, bare-footed children vault open sewers, quick-fingered langur monkeys are chased from market stalls by kohl-eyed beauties veiled behind crimson saris.

Streets throb to the popping cough of motorised rickshaws, revving motorbikes, and conversations roar over the hullabaloo.

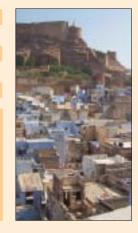
The delicious tang of cooking jalebis mixes with sewage, exhaust fumes and incense to form a thick gauze of scent, as appealing as it is

The chic Raas Hotel provides luxury and tranquility only yards from this chaotic excitement.

FACT FILE: INDIA

Time difference	+Five hours (GMT)	
Capital	New Delhi	
Population	1.8 billion	
Currency	Indian Rupee	
Climate	Varied	

Liam Creedon was a guest of Bales Worldwide, An eight-day Rajasthan itinerary costs from £2,745, including two nights at The Serai in Jaisalmer and two nights at the Rass in Jodhpur. Package includes return international/internal flights with Jet Airways private transfers, sightseeing and some meals. Bales reservations: 0845 057 0600 and www.balesworld wide.com. British Airways connecting flights ex-Glasgow, Manchester from £42 each way.



Built in Jodhpur's signature rosered sandstone, the boutique hotel boasts stunning sunset views of the Mehrangarh Fort glowering above. The muezzin's call to prayer echoes from the pastel rooftops as the fort glows in the sinking desert sun.

South of the city, the Mihirgarh Resort is opulent too: within the ochre, mud-styled battlements are nine luxury suites and a mini-temple, a perfect romantic hideaway.

But Rajasthan's soul lies in the desert, and many visitors explore the Thar's mystery from the back of a camel.

Getting on is the hard part: vaulting your leg over their tent-sized backs can demand bodily contortions.

But once you've conquered this irascible, spitting troublemaker, the animal rapidly propels you to the perfect height from which to appreciate the acacia-fringed sparseness of the dunes as they melt from gold to rust in the sinking sun.

You then spend a night under the star-smeared desert sky.

The area around Manvar is the spiritual home to the opium ceremony used by Rajput, Bishnoi and Marwari communities in the desert environs of Jodhpur.

Life is harsh in scattered desert villages. Precious seeds, grain and gourds prised from the earth are stacked carefully in mounds, while villages raise money by allowing tourists to inspect their way of life.

Further west, the city of Jaisalmer emerges from the desert like a dream. In the heat haze, it shimmers

like a giant, mustard-coloured trifle. Within 60 miles of the Pakistan border, the city is more brash and showy than Jodhpur.

Honey-hued sandstone lends Jaisalmer the title of "Golden City". Enclosed by a fort, the old town rises 80 metres into the air and is encrusted with endless battlements.

Inside, mind-bogglingly ornate Jain temples and sprawling havelis

– merchants' homes – resemble a living museum.

This was India's magnetic, riotous pull and I was hooked.

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MOTORS NEWS



Vauxhall raises stakes with lifetime warranty

AN ALL-OUT warranty war is on the cards after Vauxhall's offer of a 'lifetime warranty' on its cars, including the popular UK-built Astra.

To be precise, it applies to the first owner of the car and the first 100,000 miles, though Vauxhall says it has plans to allow second owners to purchase the warranty.

second owners to purchase the warranty. However, it is still the most comprehensive guarantee on the market and a riposte to the major peace of mind offers from Kia (seven years/100,000 miles), Hyundai (five/unlimited) and Toyota (five/100,000).



Yeti scales the heights with awards accolade

SKODA'S Yeti crossover/SUV was named Car of the Year at the prestigious Auto Express magazine awards.

The top prize was one of five earned by the Czech manufacturer, with magazine editor David Johns praising the Yeti's versatility as both possible off-roader and compact MPV, without demanding "the dynamic or financial compromises usually associated with either."

He added: "The Skoda Yeti (from £13,990) mixes tough Tonka toy looks, sharp handling and a high-quality and spacious cabin with the brand's famed value-for-money pricing and service."



Ferrari's pocket-rocket is the ultimate tribute

FANCY a cut-price Ferrari? Then check out this £30,000 Ferrari version of the Fiat 500, made by the Italian marque's sporting arm, Abarth.

Known as the 695 Tributo Ferrari, just 152 right-hand examples will be sold in the UK, complete with classic Ferrari red livery, carbon wing mirrors and grey alloys and front air intakes.

A 180bhp 1.4-litre turbocharged engine takes the pocket rocket to 62mph in seven seconds and a top speed of 140mph, yet it can still average more than 40mpg.



TOO CLEVER BY HALF: The Smart ForTwo cdi's green credentials are beyond doubt and it is a design masterpiece – yet the diesel engine (inset) provides a gruff and lumpy ride

Diesel not such a Smart move – and here's why

APART from the few electric cars around, Smart's diesel version of its distinctive ForTwo coupe is the greenest production car on UK roads.

It offers parity on CO2 emissions with that paragon of eco-motoring, the Toyota Prius, and betters its average fuel consumption by around five mpg.

You could also buy two for the price of the Toyota and dodge around town and park more easily – providing you don't have to carry more than two people.

But a petrol Smart is an even smarter choice; the diesel (from £9,440) might be a masterpiece of compact engineering, but it's gruff and lumpy, especially when cold.

And it hates accelerating; the official time to 62mph is 16.8 seconds, but that seems optimistic and you soon learn to throttle back anyway to ease the racket.

If the diesel has a virtue, it is the extra weight deadening the pitching effect allowed by the car's short wheelbase when changing gear automatically. Familiarity with any

ROAD TEST SMART FORTWO cdi

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	****
Image	****
Space	****
Value	****
Running costs	****
Reliability	****
Green rating	****

Smart teaches you to back off the throttle just before the gearbox changes up anyway, but I prefer to select the gears manually and let the car self-select only when in slow moving traffic. Despite its relative height, a Smart does not roll into bends as you might expect either and the diesel is even better planted.

Nevertheless, with the extra wear and tear on tyres and mechanicals – not to mention the nerves – it makes it hard to recommend the diesel to any but the committed town dweller.

And as many Smarts are bought as cheapto-run second cars and consequently do fewer miles, this also argues against the fuel savings of the dearer diesel – just buy the petrol version. The Smart range now has a proper boot, with roll-top parcel shelf and two-part opening. For light items, you simply lift the glass upper tailgate; if loading bulkier stuff, you then drop the main tailgate – it is the perfect shopping trolley.

Unfortunately, a 20cm/eight inch increase in length stops you parking nose or tail into the kerb – the car seems to jut out just too far for comfort – and prices start at nearly £8,680, which is more than enough for a decent four-seat city car like the Fiat Panda.







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*Model shown is a Grand Cherokee S-Limited at £33,995 OTR. Model features optional metallic paint at an additional £500 including VAT. On the road price includes Vehicle Excise Duty (VED), First Registration Fee and VAT. Prices and specifications correct at time of going to press (07/10). **Promotion available on new Jeep Grand Cherokee 3.0 CRD S-Limited registered between 1st July and 30th September 2010 at participating dealers. Initial payment varies dependent on model and mileage, and is typically between 60% and 70%. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle, if the vehicle is returned at the end of the finance agreement. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. Chrysler Group Financial Services, PO BOX 108, Leeds LS27 OWU. Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

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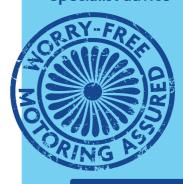
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PEUGEOT 307 1.6 Rapier, 3 Doors, Manual Hatchback, Petrol, 2003 03 Reg, 83000 miles, Metallic Blue. ABS, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Central locking, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Side airbags, Radio/CD, Towbar, Rear headrests,

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147, T-spark, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels cruise control immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer silver, 42700 miles, £5800, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

wheels cruise control immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking, silver, 42700 miles, £5800, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

metallic stromboli grey, 39450 miles, £5562, Ashford, 0844 826 5918

156, JTD 16v Multijet Lusso, 2005, metallic stromboli grey, 39450 miles £5562, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496

159, JTDM, 2008, alloy wheels cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser trip computer isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black, 32782 miles, £13000 Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

159, 1.9 JTDM 16v, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags traction control remote central locking, 27951 miles £12000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496

159 1 9 JTDM 16v 2008 als brakes 159, 1.9 JTDM 16V, 2008, abs brake air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags remote central locking, over 5000 vehicles in group s, 27951 miles, £12000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4404 (TRADE) 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

159, JTDM, 2008, abs brakes alloy black, 32782 miles, £13000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

159. JTDM. 2008, abs brakes allow wheels cruise control draws airbag black, 32782 miles, £13000, Ashford 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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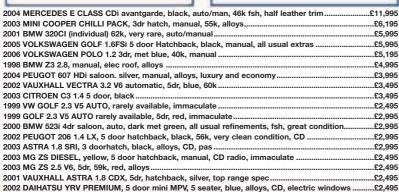
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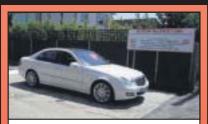
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2007 Ford Focus 1.8 LX TDCi Estate, Blue, Turbo Diesel, 5 speed manual
2002 Peugeot 2006 1.6 Coupe Cabriolet S, Blue, Petrol, 5 speed manual, 59222 miles£4,995
2007 Ford KA 1.3 Style Cloth 3dr Hatchback, White, Petrol, 5 speed manual, 37000 miles £3,995
2005 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SXi 16v Twinport 5dr hatchback, Aluminium Silver, Petrol, 5 speed manual,
80000 miles£3,995
2002 Toyota Celica 1.8 VVT-I 3dr hatchback, Blue, Petrol, 6 speed manual, 82000 miles £4,295
2002 Ford Mondeo Zetec-S V6 24v 5dr hatchback, Green, Petrol, 5 speed manual, 78000 miles £3,695
2004 Ford KA 1.3 Collection 3dr Hatchback, Black, Petrol, 5 speed manual, 35000 miles£3,695
2004 Vauxhall Vectra 1.8 Life 16v 5dr Hatchback, Aluminium Silver, Petrol, 5 speed manual,
96000 miles£3,695
2001 51Volkswagen Golf 2.0 se Auto Estate, 2 owners, S/H, E/W, C/L, A/C, Met Green £3,295
2007 STVolkswageri Goli Z.o se Auto Estate, 2 owners, 3/H, E/VV, C/L, A/C, Piet Green
63000 miles£2.995
53000 Illies
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24000 miles£13,495 + vat
2007 Ford Transit 2.4 D350 LWB DCC 100 Tipper Truck, White, Turbo Diesel, 5 Speed manual,
2007 Ford Transit 2.4 D330 LVVB DCC 100 Hipper Truck, VVnite, Turbo Diesei, 3 Speed manual,



2007 Vauxhall Combo 1.3 CDTi 1700 Van, White, Turbo Diesel, 5 speed manual, 60000 miles .£4,495 +vat

2007 Peugeot Partner 1.9 Di 600 L SWB Cdv Van, White, Turbo Diesel, 5 speed manual,



2005 BMW 320d 2.0 ES Saloon,Grey, Turbo Diesel, 6 Speed manual, 94000 miles **£8,695**



2002 Volkswagen Golf Avantgarde Convertible, Aluminium Silver, Petrol, 5 Speed manual, 53000 miles £5,495



2007 Ford Focus 1.8 Style TDCi, 5d Hatchback, Blue, Turbo Diesel, 5 Speed manual, 47000 miles £7,695



2007 Ford Focus I.8 TDCi estate, Blue, Turbo Diesel, 5 Speed manual, 54000 miles £6,695



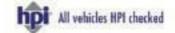
2006 Mercedes-Benz ML320 CDi SE Estate, Black, Turbo Diesel, Automatic, 77000 miles £19,995

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75000 miles





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PROPERTY NEWS

Sellers drop prices as supply beats demand

HOMEOWNERS coming on to the market have dropped their asking prices for the first time this year, according to Rightmove.

The website is currently accommodating an additional 30,000 properties a week, up 45 per cent compared to a year ago, and its latest Consumer Confidence Survey indicates that home-mover sentiment is "faltering".

The number of unsold homes per

The number of unsold homes per estate agent jumped by almost 25 per cent in the first half of 2010, as a surge in new sellers outstripped new mortgage approvals

Commercial director, Miles Shipside, said: "Estate agents are suffering from podgy portfolios, and buyers' fitness to purchase is in correspondingly poor shape

"With agents beginning to choke on a surfeit of new stock, sellers are going to have to price at bargain levels and bullishly promote their properties in order to stand out from the crowd."

According to Mr Shipside, sellers who act quickly could still benefit from some of the price gains made in the last 18 months, but they must market their properties realistically from the outset.

New regulations could hit mortgage providers

THE introduction of new regulations to encourage responsible lending among mortgage providers is ill-timed, according to a leading industry body.

Responding to a consultation paper on the changes released by the Financial Services Authority (FSA), the Association of Mortgage Intermediaries (AMI) said it was concerned about the cumulative impact of the new rules.

AMI director Robert Sinclair explained: "Our main concern remains the timing of these changes and the further risk that we will make many families either property or mortgage prisoners.

ers.
"We are also concerned that we are seeing piece-meal introduction of the proposals, with aspects such as transitional arrangements not yet ready for consultation."

The proposals form part of a major review of the mortgage industry by the FSA, which is keen to impose affordability tests introduced for all mortgages to make the lender responsible for assessing a customer's ability to pay.



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Lending crisis blamed for new fall in prices

BY **NICK AMES**

HOUSE prices fell 0.5 per cent in July for the first time since February, data from Nationwide's monthly house price index has shown

Nationwide said this was due to the low number of properties changing hands across the UK, which is still running at only half the levels seen prior to the financial crisis and recession.

Average UK house prices in July were £169,347. The annual change has slipped from June's figure of 8.7 per cent to 6.6 per cent.

Demand from homebuyers has made little progress in building upon the recovery seen during much of 2009.

Martin Gahbauer, chief executive at Nationwide, blamed this on a combination of restrictive credit conditions and uncertainty about the future economic outlook.

He said: "Many potential buyers still lack the confidence to purchase their first home or trade up when faced with uncertainty over future income and employment prospects."

Although Mr Gahbauer is encouraged by the strong economic growth seen in April to June of 1.1 per cent, he said concerns about the medium-term impact of fiscal austerity on personal finances outweighs any potential optimism.

He said: "It will take several months to establish whether house prices are now simply oscillating around a flat price trend or whether a period of downward trending prices may be in store."

Bank of England figures show that mortgage approvals fell more than expected in



June and overall lending slowed, offering further evidence that the housing market is running out of steam following price rises last year.

The bank said net mortgage lending growth slowed to £665m in June from May's £838m while mortgage approvals fell to 47,643 in June from 49,461 in May.

"This is the first time the annual rate has turned negative since April last year, but it is likely to remain so in future months as comparison is made with a stronger market towards the end of last year," said Paul Samter of the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

"Remortgaging activity also remains at

"Remortgaging activity also remains at exceptionally subdued levels. The low demand is being driven both by the lack of demand among existing borrowers enjoying low rates, and tighter criteria that may be constraining borrowers who do wish to remortgage."

Don't be taken in by rogue traders offering 'good deals'

THE Office of Fair Trading is warning people that summer is peak time for rogue traders who offer home maintenance work on the doorstep.

In 2009, the government-funded advice service, Consumer Direct, received more than 5,300 complaints over such offers of work, a 16 per cent rise from the previous year.

Complaints peaked from July through to the autumn, with rogue doorstep traders often encouraging people into making hasty decisions by offering attractive rates and using persuasive sales techniques.

Roofing jobs received the most complaints followed by tarmacing and paving .

The OFT offers advice on how to avoid being scammed.

A spokesman said: "If a trader knocks at your door do not agree to on-the-spot house repairs, or sign anything on the spot.
"Be wary of special offers or warnings

"Be wary of special offers or warnings that your house is unsafe.

"Do not make snap decisions. Take time to talk to someone you trust before you make a decision."



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End of terrace, two bedroom house with garage. Viewing is highly

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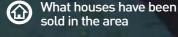
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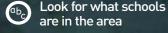






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Senior & General Appointments 41-44

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Would you like to make a real contribution to Further Education? We are looking for individuals experienced in their profession to join us who have a passion for learner achievement and success. We currently have the following opportunities available:

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 (Fixed term until 31/07/11) Variable hours Folkestone
- •Lecturer in Trowel Trades
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- •Lecturer in ESOL

 18.5 hours per week Folkestone
- Lecturer in Motor Vehicle
- 37 hours per week Dover
- •Lecturer in Sports & Sports Massage 29.6 hours per week - Folkestone

If you feel any of these roles are the challenge you are looking for please visit our website for full details: www.southkent.ac.uk or contact us for an application pack: 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answerphone); email: humanresources@southkent.ac.uk

The closing date for receipt of completed applications for these posts is 12pm, Monday 23rd August 2010.

All posts are subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expect all employees to share this commitment. Applications are welcome from suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexuality or religion.



New College coming soon

HEAD TEACHER

(Group I) Salary Scale: LI – LI8 St. John's Church of England VC Infant School, 4 New Street, Chatham. ME4 6RH Tel: (01634) 844135

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St. John's Infant School is committed to safeguarding young people. The post is subject to an enhanced CRB check. Applications will only be accepted by application form and supporting letter. References will be taken up before interviews, to be held during the week beginning 27th September.

For an application pack, please contact: Susan Bowers, HR Services, Schools, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham. Kent ME4 4TR Tel: (01634) 331100 email susan.bowers@medway.gov.uk

Starting date: Ist January 2011
Closing date for applications: Ipm Friday 17th September

Community Drug Workers

- x full time East Kent
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Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk Alternatively, you can email recruitment@kca.org.uk or call 01795 590795 and select option three. Please quote reference number 695.

Closing date: 20 August 2010 at 5.00pm Interview date: 9 September 2010 in Ashford.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.

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Application packs will be sent to those leaving a name / address clearly on 01227 784694 or please email mrsdawn.williams@virgin.net.

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> CLOSING DATE: Friday 20 August 2010 INTERVIEWS WILL BE HELD THE WEEK COMMENCING 30 AUGUST 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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The successful candidate will be a motivated individual with previous experience working at a high level in an internal Sales role. You will have experience of leading a team and ideally have people management experience. It is essential to have excellent written, communication and presentation skills and a proven track record of managing large commercial Customer Accounts ideally in

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Glynn Moyles (gmoyles@cclind.com) UK sales Manager (Healthcare & Consumer)
CCL Label (Ashford) Limited, Foster Road, Ashford Business Park, Sevington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 OSH Tel: 01233 503333



NAS KENT SERVICES -**GRAVESEND**

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You will work with and deputise for the Registered Manager to ensure a high quality service, care and manage the smooth running of the home. Minimum of 2 years experience within the care profession and preferably have some knowledge of autism. You will be working a flexible schedule

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Salary range £18,470 - £27,359 dependent on experience.

If you have the ability to lead and motivate others with good communication skills both written and verbal and you wish for the opportunity to step up to a new challenge please phone 01474 535057 for an application form and job description.

Applications are sought from all suitably qualified sections of the community but particularly welcome from those with a diagnosis of autism or Asperger's Syndrome.

Closing date for applications: 26 August 2010. Interview date will be confirmed to successful applicants.



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Applicants must have a full and valid manual driving licence. Ideal candidates will be computer literate with a sales/marketing background and the ability to provide industry-leading customer service.

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Your role will be to champion our brands and strive to deliver the best marketing and administration solutions through print and online media as well as events.

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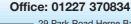
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BY STEVE TERVET

Kent League Division Three

Chestfield 1st XI v Upchurch 1st XI

FOUR weeks of the Division Three season remain and Upchurch have hit top-spot following a 70-run win away to struggling Chestfield on Saturday.

With previous leaders Addington Village losing to Linden Park, Upchurch stole in to take leadership of the division, with Gravesend now a point behind them in second.

The fight for the title has been a four-horse race for

most of the season and it looks like remaining that way until the final weekend, with Linden Park and Addington still hot on the heels of the top-two.

Upchurch skipper Lee Stepney, having won the toss and chosen to bat, saw Michael Hales depart with just six on the board, although the visitors had moved along to 72 for 3 when Adam Hodder was run out for 12. Theo Barnett (84) and Michael Hales jnr (68) then shared a fourth-wicket stand of 135 as Upchurch took control, and they declared on 275 for 8.

Stephen Lewis and Simon Buckingham both collected three wickets for Chestfield but a tall order lay in wait if the division's basement club were to overhaul the total.

Their run-chase started brightly enough, though, Paul Gibson hitting 69 from 58 balls and support coming from Tom Winding (23) and Shane Moody-Smith (26) in the middler-order.

At 111 for 3, the home side may still have fancied their chances, but Upchurch came roaring back with the ball to spark a Chestfield collapse and wrap up victory.

Kevin Cunningham (3 for 18) was the pick of the visiting bowlers as Chestfield lost their last wicket in the 46th over with the score on 205.

Upchurch take the lead in four-horse title race



FINAL STRAIGHT: Upchurch (bowling) have taken the top spot in Division Three in what is becoming a close-run title race

SCORE CARD

Upchurch 1st XT

Picture IGOR KUPCO	Michael Hales c&A Andrew Shirley of Adam Hodder run Theo Barnett et B Michael Hales jur Lee Taylor lbw b E Mare Bond et Jam Daniel Parker et I Kevin Cunningha Lee Stepney did n Craig Bewick did Extras (7b 5lb 20v	b Lewis t Lock b out suckingh ct Sante Buckingh ies b Buc ewis b E m jnr no ot bat	Lewis am b Beer b Lev am	ennett. vis m ham	24 12 84 68 40 6 0
	Total (8 wickets de Bowlers Stephen Lewis	o, 48 ov 0 14	ers) M 3	R 54	
	Arron Bennett Simon Buckingham Joshua Lock Tom Winding	11 13 7 3	0 2 0 0	75 65 48 21	3 0 0
	Chestfield Joshua Lock b Pat Paul Gibson et Tay Chris Watson et B Tom Winding et S Shane Moody-Smith Simon Buckingha Daniel James et B Arron Bennett no Stephen Lewis b Trevor Santer et I Stephen Cox et Ta	rker lor b Be sond b B hirley b let Shirley t cum dewick b t out Parker Hales b B	wick ewick . Cunning b Cunningham Jr Cunnin	gham Jr ham Jr r b Hodder igham J	69 12 23 26 1 r1 27 1
	Extras (10b 6lb 11v Total (all out, 46 ov				

38 31 33

...8 .133

10

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FIVE

Bapchild 1st XI v Bromley Town 1st XI

THE threat of relegation from the Kent League continues to hang over Bapchild after they lost by 25 runs at home to Bromley Town on Saturday.

Bapchild's Matthew Roche picked up 6 for 46 as the visiting side were bowled out for 182, with Alex Taylor (49) and Paul Slamon (42) their top scorers.

Several Bapchild players then got starts, but none went on to score heavily as they closed their 50 overs on 157 for 8, with Bromley's William Goodyear taking 4 for 40.

.ct Ward b Dalect Heatley b Roche

.ct Lewis b Roche

Bromley Town 1st XI

Alex Taylor Paul Slamon

lliam Goodvear

David Scorer	st Heatley b Dale			
Josh Travers	ct Lev	vis b Dale		6
Thomas Smith				
Simon Jones				
Henry Smith				
Luke Loverage				
Matt Twose	run oı	ıt		0
Extras				
Total	(all ou	t, 50 overs)		182
Bowlers				
	0	M	R	W
Alex Ward	7	4	13	0
Adam Larking	4	ó	19	Õ
Joshua Hunt	5	ĭ	17	Õ
Steve Roberts	5	î	19	Õ
Matthew Roche	15	î	46	6
Ricky Dale	14	2	59	3
Bapchild 1st XI				Runs
Lee Cogger	ct Sla	mon b Good	year	
Lincoln Bryden	b Love	erage	·	0
Luke Mackay	ct Tra	vers b Score	r	24
Adam Larking	ct Sm	ith b Goodye	ear	15
Ricky Dale	lbw b	Twose		35
Joshua Hunt				
Matt Lewis				
John Heatley	ct Tay	lor b Twose		19
Alex Ward				
Steve Roberts				
Matthew Roche	did no	t bat		
Extras	(4b 3l	b 5w 2nb) .		14
Total	(8 wid	ckets, 50 ove	ers)	157
Bowlers	0		D	W
William Candunan	0 15	M	R 40	4
William Goodyear	8	3 1	40 22	1
Luke Loverage	6	0	22 19	1
David Scorer	6 10		19 28	0
Alex Taylor Matt Twose	8	2	28 24	2
	3	0	24 17	0
Henry Smith	3	U	1/	U

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

Minster 1st XI v Orpington 1st XI

MINSTER have dropped into the Division Two relegation places after crashing to a surprise 51-run defeat at home to fellow strugglers Orpington.

Alex Watts hit 88, but was largely unsupported as the visitors were bowled out for 171, with Minster's Mark

Tucker collecting figures of 4 for 39.

The home side started well as Gareth Whetnall hit 41. but the remainder of their card had a sorry look to it as they lost their last wicket with the score on 120.

Orpington 1st XI

Prince Sterling	lbw b	Nichol		6
Alex Watts	not οι	ıt		88
Geoff Atkinson	b Nich	ol		3
Christopher Watts	b Nich	ol		2
Julian Sanders	run oı	ıt		6
David Robinson	ct J0'	Donoahue b	Hammond	0
Peter Shaw	st Wh	etnall b Tuc	ker	17
Sam Clarkson	ct Nic	hol b Tucker	•	6
Ben Clarkson				
Paul Schmidt	ct Nic	hol b Tucker	•	12
Neil Bradford	ct Mo	hmand b Tu	cker	0
Extras	(2b 2l	b 8w 3nb).		15
Total				
Bowlers				
	0	M	R	W
Nathan Nichol	15	3	38	3
Adil Mohmand	10	1	51	1
Martin Hammond	15	6	38	ī
Mark Tucker	8.3	0	39	4

				Runs
Gareth Whetnall Neil Hosken Jordan Weller Andy Hosken Callum Hughes Joe O'Donoghue Tarique Kltan Mark Tucker Nathan Nichol Adil Mohmand Martin Hammond	ct Atk c&b Sc b S Cl b S Cl b S Cl lbw b c&b B ct S Cl ct Atk ct Rob	inson b Sch chmidt arkson Watts Clarkson arkson b W inson b Sch inson b Wa	atts	4 1 11 0 17 0 22 10 0 0
Extras Total				
Bowlers				
Neil Bradford Paul Schmidt Sam Clarkson	0 8 10.2 14	M 2 4 1	R 19 22 41	W 0 3 2
Ben Clarkson	8	0	25	2

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

Old Wilsonians 1st XI v Rodmersham 1st XI

RODMERSHAM were unable to halt the Old Wilsonians promotion bandwagon on Saturday as the home side romped to a nine-wicket win.

The visitors were bowled out for just 107 as Wilsonians turned in a tight bowling performance – Douglas Forbes the pick of their attack with 5 for 38.

In reply, the Old Boys made light work of chasing down the total and Rodmersham made only one breakthrough as Rakesh Joshi (74) led the home side to victory inside 15 overs.

.....st Prabhu b Wilson

Rodmersham 1st X1

Dave Cogger	ct For	bes b Wilson	1	7
Dylan Emmett	b Forb	es		13
Michael Jones	ct We	eraratne b F	orbes	13
Robert Horne	ct We	eraratne b F	orbes	11
Sam Blackwell	ct Roc	lda b Don		9
Darren Nokes	b Forb	es		5
Chris Ansley	ct Roc	lda b Forbes		7
Jack Bayford				
Kevin Beacon				
Karl Reeves	not ou	t		2
Extras	(5b 5l	b 2w 1nb)		13
Total				
Bowlers				
	0	M	R	W
Suminda Balage Don	11	2	29	ï
Simon Wilson	11	2 5	17	2
Douglas Forbes	13.3	2	38	5
Michael Mitchell		ī	10	i
Pasan Weeraratne	ĭ	Ô	3	Ô
	-	•	-	•

Old Wilsonians 1st X1

old Hilloulians	, TOC VI			
				Runs
Rakesh Joshi	not ou	t		74
Jayant Yewale	b Nok	2S		12
Jonathan Rodda				
Pasan Weeraratne .	did no	t bat		
Suminda Balage Don	did no	t bat		
Michael Mitchell	did no	t bat		
Kenny Maxwell	did no	t bat		
Mikail Smith	did no	t bat		
Ramakrishna Prabhi	did no	t bat		
Douglas Forbes	did no	t bat		
Simon Wilson	did no	t bat		
Extras	(1b 5ll	2w 2nb) .		10
Total	(1 wic	ket, 14.2 ov	ers)	108
Bowlers				
	0	M	R	W
Darren Nokes	4	0	29	ï
Chris Anslev	2	0	20	0
Dylan Emmett	5	Õ	36	Õ
Michael Iones	2	ň	12	ñ

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FIVE

Bickley Park 3rd XI v Macknade 1st XI

THE weather prevented Macknade completing their game against Bickley Park 3rds, but Lee Rigden's side still extended their lead at the top of the table to 39 points.

Batting first, Macknade declared at 318 for 7, with Kaylem Short's superb 133 backed up by 62 from Lee Rigden and 59 not out from Andrew Machin, as Park's seven bowlers were made to toil.

Three wickets fell in the Park reply before the rain called a premature end to preceedings, Paul Bunn top-scoring with 57 as the home side reached 114 for 3.

.ct Brocking b Hardy.

Phil Rowcroft Kaylem Short Lee Rinden

Andrew Machin	not ou	It		59
Scott Davenport	ct Bro	ckina b Hew	/itt	4
Jonathan Holmans				
Terry McDowell				
Jamie Rigden				
James Jarrett				
Darryl Cook	aid no	ıt dat		
Extras				
Total	(7 wic	:kets dec, 46	overs)	318
Bowlers				
	0	M	R	W
Sam Hardy	6	ï	40	ï
Marcos Aimev	5	0	37	0
Martin Howard	10	0	67	0
Matthew Johnson	2	0	18	0
Christopher Hewitt	15	0	65	3
Dave Neville	2	0	20	0
Graeme Barnett	2	ñ	24	Ō
and	-	3		3
Bickley Park 3r	d XI			

				Runs
Graeme Barnett	ct Da	venport b Sh	ort	
Paul Bunn				
Sean Keyes	lbw b	Rigden		5
Parag Patel	not o	ut		12
Marcos Aimey	not o	ut		4
Matthew Brocking				
Christopher Hewitt				
Sam Hardy	did no	ot bat		
Martin Howard				
Matthew Johnson				
Dave Neville	did n	ot bat		
Extras				
Total	(3 wi	ckets, 23 ove	rs)	114
Bowlers				
DOWIEIS	0	M	R	W
Darren Kavlem Short	8	0	49	1
Phil Rowcroft	5	0	15	0
Innia Dindan	,	0	17	1

Macknade's renaissance is all down to hard work

CRICKET

BY STEVE TERVET

MACKNADE Cricket Club are three games from clinching promotion to Division Four of the Kent League and captain Lee Rigden admits the title is now theirs to lose.

Just two years ago, the Faversham club finished second-bottom in Division Five and only the demise of another club, BOCA CC, prevented their relegation from the league.

Rigden has now led the same group of players to the top of the division, with Macknade 39 points clear of their closest challengers,

Deal Victoria & Barns Close.

He said: "It's a big turnaround because we thought we were out of the Kent League. We're only one player different to that side of two years ago and it's been a good, all-round effort.

"At the start of the season we were quite optimistic and promotion was definitely our main aim. I'd like to think it's pretty safe now.

"If someone offered me second place I'd take

it, but it would be nice to go up as champions."

After a stuttering start to the campaign, when they lost three of their opening five games, Macknade put together a run of seven consecutive wins, with the all-round displays of Kaylem Short providing the backbone for their success. Short tops the club's charts with both bat and ball this season, hitting 582 runs



NOT LONG NOW: Macknade were almost relegated from the Kent League two years ago but now look set to win title

and picking up 28 wickets to lead Rigden's side to the brink of Division Four cricket.

Only the rain prevented Macknade extending their winning run to eight on Saturday, where they posted 318 for 7 before declaring away to Bickley Park's 3rd XI.

Macknade travel to fifth-placed Chislehurst & West Kent on Saturday and their final two games are against sides in the bottom-half -Bromley Town and Farningham.

"Kaylem's done really well, but there's not

one player who's been winning games for us," said Rigden. "One thing that's helped us has

been holidays and availability.
"We've put out a settled side and I've only used 16 players all season. The second team are top of their division as well and that means there's better competition for places."

"Chislehurst will be a tough game because they've been on a decent run, but Bromley are mid-table and Farningham are at the bottom

FOOTBALL



OFF YOU GO: Goodger (red) was sent off for stamping

Hero Harry sees red as ten-man Norton claim opening draw

Sevenoaks Town 2 Norton Sports 2

NORTON Sports manager Ben Taylor will not drop Harry Goodger for Saturday's FA Cup tie against Redhill, despite the striker's moment of madness against Sevenoaks

Goodger, having put Norton 2-1 ahead with a sublime volley, was later shown a straight red card for stamping, leaving his team-mates to hang on for a draw on the Kent League's opening weekend.

Having gone behind to a Cashew Henry strike in the sixth minute, Norton levelled when Goodger's free-kick was palmed out to Russel Jeffrey, who bundled home from

close range.

A game which lacked quality was never low on spirit and endeavour, and Goodger put the visitors ahead after Ashley Baverstock's low shot had come back off the post.

However, Chris Davis drilled a fierce shot beyond Nick Shaw to earn Sevenoaks a share of the spoils and Taylor expressed mixed feelings at leaving Greatness Park

with a point.

He said: "Sevenoaks were young, fit, up for the battle and with ten men, we were just holding on for a point.

"It says a lot for Norton Sports Football

Club, though, to come away to Sevenoaks, draw, and leave the pitch disappointed, so

we've come a long way."

With striker Andy Irvine expected to be out for another three weeks with a thigh strain, Taylor will persist with Goodger up front for Saturday's cup-tie, which will be played at Herne Bay as Woodstock does not yet meet FA regulations.

"It will be a similar team," said Taylor. "I will persevere with Harry for the reason he did well on Saturday.

"I don't know why he kicks out like he does; he's just committed to the cause so I won't drop a player for doing that, I'll just have a quiet word and try to put it right."

Leberl will give Town a winner's mentality

FAVERSHAM Town have bolstered their squad ahead of the new season by signing former Dover Athletic and Margate midfielder Jake Leberl as playercoach. Picture IGOR KUPCO

The 33-year-old, who has also had spells with Dagenham Redbridge and AFC Wimbledon, is the highest-proarrival at Salters Lane this summer as the Lilywhites prepare for Ryman League football.

Town manager Justin Luchford believes Leberl will provide a vital link between the management and players, as well as adding his on-field quality to Faver-sham's developing squad.
Luchford said: BOSS MAN: Town's Justin Luchford

"He's been helping in the wings for the last couple of years and it was always going to happen.

The good thing about Jake is that he's a winner, he's won almost every non-league division and it would be a clean sweep if he were to win Ryman South with

FOOTBALL

us. He's getting older and he's not going to play 42 games, but what he will do is be a figurehead in

the changing room and he will help implement how we want to play as a team.

Leberl is not the only new face at Salters Lane this week, with former Ashford Town midfielder Danny Lye also penning a deal to join the club before Saturday's 1-0 win over Maidstone United.

Danny Hunt scored the game's only goal from the penalty spot, although Luchford admitted the for-mer Greenwich front-man remained at least

two weeks from full fitness. "Danny's just thankful to kick a ball again because he's had a disastrous pre-season [through injuries]," he said.

"Whether he starts or not is another question but he won't play 90 minutes in the first game."



FOOTBALL

THE hole left in Sittingbourne's defence by Matt Bourne is set to be plugged by Lee Hockey after the former Ashford Town player joined the Brickies for pre-season

Ashford will not play senior football this season and Hockey, just one of the players looking for a new club, looks like returning to Bourne Park for a second spell.

Sittingbourne's defence looked frail in last week's 5-1 defeat to Hythe Town so Hockey's arrival should come as a timely boost.

"Too many players at the back didn't perform," said Abbott. "Lee's been around a bit and he knows the game. When I first joined, I got rid of him but when he played against us for Ashford,

he was one of their best players. Abbott, who used several Dartford academy players during last season, is hoping to continue the relationship with Tony Burman's side as he looks to add

further quality to his squad. Defender Daniel Palfrey, midfielder Danny Crouch and striker

Jack Pallen have all featured for the Brickies during pre-season and Abbott's aim is to secure their services on a non-contract basis. Striker Elie Kayembe has



OLD BOY: Lee Hockey (yellow) is to rejoin the Brickies after leaving to play for Ashford Town

returned to re-join Sittingbourne for the new season, but goalkeeper Adam Harris has been released after a trial period.

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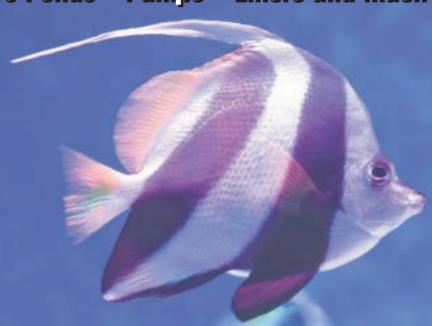
Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler gives an update on squad's injured players

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